DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Unanswered questions: Speaker walks out

Khader's action draws praise from the Opposition

Page 4

- NATO, Western allies **push back on** Trump's demand that they help reopen Strait of Hormuz
- Israel launches a broad wave of strikes on Iranian cities of **Tehran, Shiraz & Tabriz**
- **Dubai airport** resumes flights after a **drone attack;** UAE oil infra hit; 1 killed in **Abu Dhabi** in missile attack
- US has struck more than **7k targets** in Iran since campaign began, says Trump

Iran hits transport, energy hubs in Gulf

Tehran asked India to release its tankers during talks: Report

TEHRAN/DUBAI/NEW DELHI, AGENCIES

Iran said it was ready to take the West Asia war "as far as necessary" as it launched strikes across the region on Monday, while US President Donald Trump piled pressure on world powers to help reopen a vital shipping lane.

A drone sparked a fuel tank fire near Dubai airport, disrupting travel, while a missile killed a civilian in their car in Abu Dhabi, and another drone sparked a blaze in an area housing oil infrastructure in the eastern emirate of Fujairah.

Global oil prices have surged by 40 to 50% as Iran attacks shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and launches waves of missile and drone strikes in the Gulf in retaliation for the war launched by the US and Israel.

"Some are very enthusiastic about it (sending ships to Strait of Hormuz), and some aren't. Some are countries that we've helped for many years... and they weren't that enthusiastic.
Donald Trump
US Prez

An aircraft prepares for landing as smoke rises from a fire near Dubai airport. AFP

A *Reuters* report said that Iran has asked India to release three tankers seized in February as part of talks seeking the safe passage of India-bound vessels out of the Gulf via the strait. Tehran has also sought supplies of certain medicines and medical equipment. India, however, denied the report.

Indian authorities seized the three Iran-linked tankers near its waters alleging they were involved in illegal ship-to-ship transfers at sea.

▸ Iran, Page 5

Panic booking comes down

Customers who booked LPG cylinders continue to wait for deliveries, although panic booking seems to have reduced. Consumers say Indane and Bharatgas are delivering relatively faster. The Centre on Sunday said bookings had fallen from 89 lakh to 77 lakh.
Details on Page 3B

India advises citizens in Iran not to cross land borders P.11

India not engaged in bilateral talks with US on Strait of Hormuz: MEA P.8

Hiring challenge as 86k govt employees to retire by 2030

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

A total of 86,398 government employees in Karnataka are set to retire over the next five years, according to data, putting tremendous pressure on the Siddaramaiah administration to hire, even as a huge number of positions remain vacant.

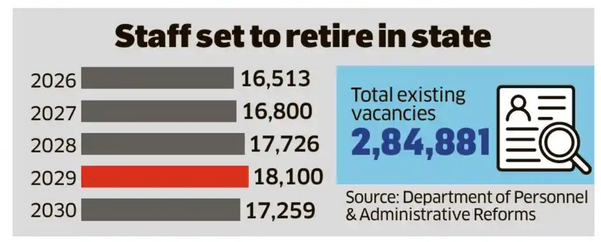
At present, there are 2.84 lakh government posts vacant. This number could further rise if the government does not recruit in a big way.

In its 2023 election manifesto, the Congress had promised to fill all government vacancies in one year. Between 2023 and 2025, the government successfully filled 8,157 posts. Recruitment for another 3,081 posts is in progress, the CM stated in the ongoing session of the legislature.

In the 2026-27 fiscal year, the government is expected to incur an expenditure of Rs 1.32 lakh crore on salaries and pensions.

This is a 38% increase from Rs 96,166 crore that the government spent on salaries and pensions in 2023-24. By 2029-30, expenditure on salaries and pensions is projected to rise to Rs 1.65 lakh crore.

▸ Govt employees, Page 5



Signing of India-US trade deal on hold: Commerce Secretary

Deal only when there is clarity on US tariffs

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

STORY SO FAR

- India and the US last month announced finalisation of a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement
- However, the tariff architecture changed following the US Supreme Court ruling against President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs
- Following the judgment, the Trump administration came out with a new 10% tariff last month, which will remain valid for 150 days
- Trade agreement has been put on hold due to America's changing tariff architecture

The signing of the bilateral trade agreement between India and the US, which was supposed to be done in March, has been put on hold due to America's changing tariff architecture, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said on Monday.

"The US deal was to be signed in March. When we had said this, the Supreme Court judgment on the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs had not come," said Agarwal, adding that the issue of the so-called reciprocal tariff imposed by the Donald Trump administration became irrelevant following the court judgment.

Agarwal indicated that India would sign a trade agreement with the United States only when there is clarity on the US tariffs.

"Any deal that we sign has to be around a tariff structure or comparative advantage that India gets in the US market. The US is working on a tariff architecture. When they can create the pathway, that juncture will be right to sign a deal," the Commerce Secretary said.

"Actual signing, to my mind, will be done when the new architecture of tariffs will be created by the US. We will wait for tariff clarity first," Agarwal added.

India and the United States had released a framework for a bilateral trade agreement a few days before the United States Supreme Court struck down President Trump's sweeping tariffs imposed under the IEEPA.

▸ Trade deal, Page 5

BJP fields Adhikari in Bengal; Kurian, Muraleedharan get tickets in Kerala

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Monday released its first list of candidates for the West Bengal and Kerala Assembly elections.

Leader of the Opposition in Bengal Suvendu Adhikari will contest from two constituencies, including Bhabanipur, currently represented by Trinamool Congress president and state Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Adhikari will also enter the fray in Nandigram, his pocket borough, from where he defeated the TMC chief in 2021.

In Kerala, the BJP has decided to field its top leadership. Union Minister George Kurian, current state chief Rajeev Chandrashekhar, former Union minister V Muraleedharan and former IPS officer R Sreelekha figure in the first list of 47 candidates.

Suvendu Adhikari

Muraleedharan

Details on Page 9
BJP wins big in RS polls, P9

ALL CLEAR P 15

Chinnaswamy receives final nod to host IPL

Putting an end to months of speculation following a deadly stampede during the RCB's maiden title victory celebrations in June last year, the Karnataka government gave a final approval for the Karnataka State Cricket Association to host the team's IPL home matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. KSCA secretary Santosh Menon said that the expert committee was "completely satisfied" with the structural renovations at the venue.

SHOCKER P 8

10 patients killed in fire at Odisha hospital

At least ten patients were killed after a major fire erupted in an ICU in Odisha government-run SCB Medical College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar in the wee hours of Monday. There were 23 patients at the Trauma Care ICU and an adjacent ICU and ward. Seven patients died in the fire, while three others succumbed during evacuation. The CM announced a judicial probe and asked the DG, Fire Service, to inquire into the matter and report to him.

ACADEMY AWARDS P 11

'One Battle After Another' bags 6 Oscars

Paul Anderson's "One Battle After Another" won six Oscars including best picture at the Academy Awards, handing the honour to a comic, American saga of political resistance. Michael B. Jordan won the best actor award and "Sinners" cinematographer Autumn Arkapaw became the first female director of photography to win the award.

Paul Thomas Anderson

EVERY TASTE TELLS A STORY

Bolas brings you the richness of every ingredient crafted with care
to make your Yugadi richer and warmer.

Bolas® GRAND YUGADI OFFER

1.35 KG DRY FRUITS COMBO

ONLY AT MRP ~~₹1959~~ ₹995

Images are for illustration purpose only*

OFFER VALID 17TH-19TH MARCH

AVAILABLE AT BOLAS STORES

Terms and conditions apply*

*Offer can be availed only once per customer. Only once per purchase | *Offer is valid for walk-in customers only. | *Valid till stocks last; for first 200 customers.
*Store reserves the right to decline the offer in case of T&C violation. | *1.35 kg Dry Fruits Combo includes Premium Cashew Nuts 250g, Almonds 250g, Black Raisins 250g, Roasted & Salted Pistachios 200g and Seedless Tunisian Dates 400g.

DRY FRUITS | NUTS | SWEETS & MORE
FACTORY PRICE ADVANTAGE

ಬೋಲಾಸ್ Bolas

Channapatna-9483548777 | **Bangalore (Meenakshi Mall)**-9606019779 | **Kanakpura**-9019963559 | **Tumkur**-9364009426 | **Bengaluru TC Palya**-9364016907 | **Sampige Road Mallesharam**-9364016905 | **Vidyaranyapura**-9364016902 | **Vijayanagara Quard Road**-9364016906 | **Nelamangala**-9364016903 | **Basaveshwara Nagara**-9364016904 | **Basawanagudi (Gandhi Bazar)**-9364016908 | **Banaswadi**-9364016909 | **Uttarahalli**-9364016911 | **Banashankari**-9364016910 | **Haralur**-6364863287 | **HSR**-6364863283 | **Jayanagara**-6364863281 | **RT Nagara**-6364863284 | **Off Sarjapur Road**-6364863286 | **New Thippasandara Main Road**-6364863285 | **Wilson Garden**-6364863282 | **Mattikere**-9364016901 | **Kengeri**-9364016916 | **BTM Layout**-9364016917 | **Nagarabhavi**-9972058196 | **Tumkur(B. H. Road)**-9035079191 | **Chikkaballapura**-9035079192 | **BEML (R.R Nagar)**-6366923566 | **Girinagara Bangalore**-9035079198 | **Kempapura**-6366923570 | **Rajkumar Road**-6366923571 | **Hasana**-9019963564

/bolas.outlet
www.bolas.co.in

BEATING THE HEAT

A vendor pushes a cart of earthen pots, traditionally used to keep drinking water cool during the summer, in Malleswaram on Monday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

HC refuses to quash child marriage case against man, kin

The girl, aged 16, was married to the 27-year-old man during the pandemic

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash proceedings under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act against a man, his parents and in-laws.

"The law protects childhood, so that it may blossom into informed adulthood. This court will not permit this protection to be diminished," Justice M Nagaprasanna said in his order.

In August 2021, the Child Development Project Officer, Devanahalli taluk, filed a suo motu complaint reporting a child marriage.

The complaint said the parents had married off their daughter, aged 16 (now 20), to a man who was 27 at the time. The court took cognizance of the police charge sheet.

The petitioners submitted that the marriage had taken place during Covid-19 and they wanted to get the daughter married, fearing the pandemic would take away lives.

They further submitted that the marriage was registered when the girl turned 18, and that they were ignorant of the law at that time.

The court noted that sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, against the solemnisation and perpetuation of child marriage, are not merely penal provisions, but legislative declarations that childhood shall not be prematurely surrendered at the altar of matrimony.

"In the case at hand, it stands admitted that the girl was 16 years of age at the time of marriage. The statutory definition leaves no room for interpretative elasticity.

"The marriage, therefore, answers squarely to the description of child marriage," the court said.

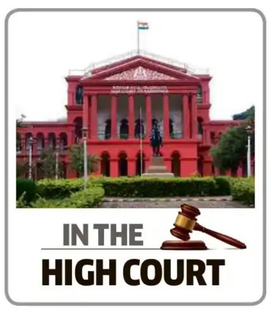
The court further noted that as per Section 10, whoever performs, conducts, directs or abets a child marriage becomes equally liable.

"The priest who solemnises the ceremony, the relative who arranges it, the organiser who facilitates it, all stand within the sweep of this provision. The punishment prescribed is again a rigorous imprisonment, which may extend up to 2 years," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

"The only statutory escape is a demonstrable and reasonable belief that the marriage was not a child marriage, a defence which will have to be established by evidence and not presumed by sympathy, as projected in the case at hand."

"A girl married before 18 does not merely enter matrimony; she exits opportunity. The promise of education fades into abstraction. The dream of academic or professional advancement remains precisely that, a dream," the court further said.

"The submission that the couple is presently living in harmony does not efface the illegality committed at the time of solemnisation. Criminal liability is measured now of commission, not neutralised by the subsequent domestic peace. To accept otherwise would be to convert penal law into a matter of retrospective validation through sentiment."



JUSTICE M NAGAPRASANNA

"A girl married before 18 does not merely enter matrimony; she exits opportunity. The promise of education fades into abstraction. The dream of academic or professional advancement remains precisely that, a dream.

Legal reminder

"... Child Development Project officers shall ensure that awareness of criminal liability is displayed at every venue where marriages are ordinarily performed. Temple authorities, marriage halls, and similar establishments shall display notices, stating that marriage of a person below the 18 years of age is prohibited by law and attracts criminal consequences," Justice M Nagaprasanna.

Protest outside Majestic railway station today over 'no Kannada' in RRB exam

Cops cite HC order, direct protesters to Freedom Park

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) has called for protests in front of railway stations in Bengaluru, Hubballi and Mysuru against the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) conducting the March 17 exam for the Goods Train Manager post only in English and Hindi, instead of Kannada.

"We have informed the police about the protest scheduled for Tuesday morning. However, the department has directed us to hold it at Freedom Park. Even if we are arrested, we will protest in front of the KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station. We will not allow the exam to be conducted," KRV state president TA Narayana Gowda said at a press conference on Monday.

TA NARAYANA GOWDA
KRV state president

"We have been demanding that railway exams be conducted in Kannada as well. Officials give assurances, but later conduct the exams only in Hindi with the intention of imposing the language. When we question Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna, he expresses helplessness.

The Cottonpet police station issued a notice to Gowda, warning that according to a High Court order, protests in Bengaluru are permitted only at Freedom Park. Police said demonstrators can stage protests at Freedom Park after obtaining permission, but legal action will be taken if they gather near railway stations in violation of the order.

Gowda said that during the recruitment to over 4,000 Group 'D' posts in 2008, attempts were made to fill all the posts with candidates from Bihar, which was stopped following protests.

"We have been demanding that railway exams be conducted in Kannada as well. Officials give assurances, but later conduct the exams only in Hindi with the intention of imposing the language. When we question Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna, he expresses helplessness," he said.

Gowda demanded that Union Ministers HD Kumaraswamy, Pralhad Joshi, Shobha Karandlaje and Somanna resign and stand with the people of Karnataka over the "injustice" to Kannadigas.

"Even MPs are not raising their voices. If such injustice had happened in Tamil Nadu, public representatives would not have remained silent," he added.

Hydro ganja worth Rs 39L seized at airport in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have seized 1.125 kg of hydro ganja valued at Rs 39.37 lakh from a passenger who arrived from Bangkok on March 14.

According to officials, the contraband was cleverly concealed inside a photo frame kept in the passenger's checked-in baggage. During inspection, customs officials detected the narcotic substance and seized it.

The passenger was arrested under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Investigation is underway to ascertain the source and intended destination of the drugs.

Guard slits wife's throat for 'not respecting' his job

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her husband in Mico Layout on Sunday night after a quarrel at their house.

Rangamma, a native of Jagalur in Davangere district, had moved to Bengaluru with her husband Nagaraj, 48, a few months ago.

Rangamma worked as a housemaid, while Nagaraj was employed as a security guard. They had rented a house in Bilekahalli with their three grown-up children.

The couple reportedly had frequent quarrels, often after Nagaraj returned home drunk.

On Sunday night, Nagaraj came home in an inebriated state and picked a fight with his wife. During the altercation, he slit her throat, killing her on the spot, and escaped.

Based on a complaint by the victim's son Darshan, Mico Layout police registered a murder case.

Police traced Nagaraj to a nearby place through his mobile phone location and took him into custody.

Nagaraj reportedly told police that his wife had been ignoring him and did not respect his job.

A police officer said Nagaraj told investigators that he killed her in a fit of rage over the issue.

Row over roof: Mechanic beaten to death with cricket bat

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old man was beaten to death with a cricket bat following a trivial dispute in central Bengaluru, police said on Monday.

The deceased, Rasheed Ahmed, was a mechanic who ran a shop in Wilson Garden.

Police said Ahmed and the prime suspect, Parvez, who also worked in the same area, had an argument on Sunday evening over the construction of a concrete roof.

"The argument escalated and Parvez hit Ahmed on the leg with a cricket bat. Ahmed, who was also beaten with sticks, fell, hitting his head on the road, which led to his death. Ahmed's children were present at the spot as they live nearby," a police investigator told *DH*.

A video of the attack later went viral.

Wilson Garden Police Station has registered a case of murder and launched an investigation.

Suspect Parvez seen holding the bat used in the fatal assault. The video later went viral. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seven arrested

Seven people have been arrested so far, with the three main suspects identified as Parvez, Afrid, and Munawwar.

While allegations surfaced that the suspects had demanded hafta (protection money) from the deceased, police said no evidence has been found so far, sources said.

Doctor lodges plaint over Rs 24-lakh jewellery missing from bank locker

BENGALURU, DHNS: A doctor from RMV Extension has filed a police complaint alleging that gold jewellery worth Rs 24 lakh has gone missing from her bank locker.

In her complaint, the 57-year-old said she holds a savings account and locker at a nationalised bank branch in RMV Extension. Ahead of her son's wedding, she took out the jewellery from the locker, on February 27.

After the wedding she returned to the bank on March 3 around 11.15 am to keep some of the ornaments back in the locker. She kept about 150 to 160 grams of gold jewellery, including a necklace, gold chain, pair of jhumkis and two bangles, worth Rs 24 lakh, in a transparent plastic box and kept it inside the locker before locking it.

When she visited the bank again on March 12 to deposit the remaining ornaments, she found that the plastic box containing the jewellery was missing.

She informed senior officials at the bank, after which the manager checked the CCTV footage from March 3. The footage reportedly showed the customer entering the locker room carrying a jewellery box and a small brown bag, but returning with only the brown bag in her hand.

As she did not receive a satisfactory response from the bank staff, she approached the Sadashivanagar police and sought action against them.

Police have asked the bank staff to share CCTV footage to verify the facts, and the case is under investigation, an investigating officer said.

Assam youths assaulted near Nelamangala over child kidnap rumours

BENGALURU, DHNS

Villagers of Jakkasandra near Nelamangala allegedly assaulted two youths on suspicion of being child kidnappers.

Yeshodha, an eyewitness, said two men came on a motorcycle and allegedly called out to a minor girl who was playing nearby.

Suspecting them to be child kidnappers, she alerted the residents, who caught and assaulted them before calling the police. The villagers had not seen them earlier in the locality.

Hema, a resident, said the girl started screaming after noticing the stranger calling her and was scared even after the police took them away.

"Initially, we called the local police personnel, but they insisted we call the police helpline 112 to report the incident. We contacted the police control room as instructed."

A senior police officer said the men were from Assam and had been working at a local factory in Nelamangala.

Villagers reportedly grew suspicious when they noticed the men watching children playing nearby, and that they were under the influence of alcohol.

The youths tried to ask for an address in Hindi but, as they could not speak Kannada, the communication gap worsened the situation.

"No case has been registered as they refused to file a complaint against the villagers," the officer added.

Assam man kidnapped for recording video, freed after deleting it

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 23-year-old man from Assam was allegedly kidnapped by five men who freed him only after forcing him to delete a video from his mobile phone.

Police said five men picked up Shabir alias Mohammed Sadir Khan from near his friend's house in Laxmisagar Layout, TC Palya, on Sunday, bundled him into an auto, and drove towards Ramamurthy Nagar.

Shabir was threatened and forced to delete a video he had recorded of Sajid, the prime suspect, with a woman. Shabir was released around 2.30 pm. Shabir works at a juice shop.

Based on Shabir's complaint, police arrested Sajid, 23, a gig worker from TC Palya and a native of Assam, and his associate Subramani, 19, who worked in a bakery in the same area. Three other suspects remain at large, and police are making efforts to trace them. The arrested were booked under BNS Section 140 (kidnapping or abducting to murder or for ransom, etc).

Flood relief works on Sarjapur Road

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru East City Corporation has undertaken flood mitigation works at RBD Layout on Sarjapur Road.

Local residents said the area floods frequently and requires a permanent solution.

The corporation is constructing a roadside drain and connecting culverts to prevent flooding.

During the works, a 600-mm pipeline laid by the BWSSB was found to be obstructing the flow of water. The BWSSB is now rerouting the pipeline.

Girinath reviews infra works

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, on Monday reviewed infrastructure projects at a meeting with senior officials of the five corporations, BWSSB, BMRCL, BDA, and traffic police.

Among the works discussed were development of areas under flyovers, plantation of saplings, establishment of garbage transfer stations and paid-parking arrangements in the city.

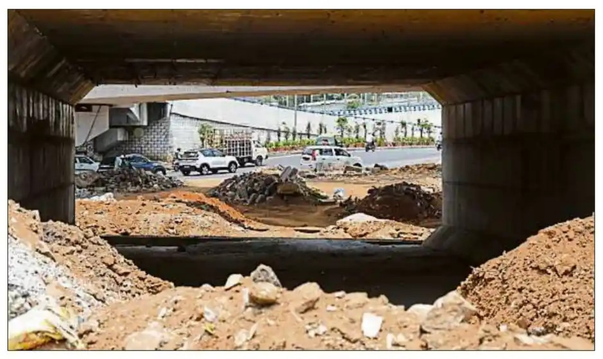
Girinath instructed the BWSSB to prepare a plan for planting saplings around its sewage treatment plants.

The meeting also decided to resume towing of vehicles parked in unauthorised places by entrusting officers with the responsibility of removing vehicles that obstruct traffic.

Work stalls on Okalipuram rail underpass; debris, sewage pile up

Commuters flag neglect at junction near Majestic

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS



A view of the long-pending signal-free corridor work at Okalipuram. (Right) Construction debris piled up in front of the Okalipuram railway underbridge. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

The incomplete stretch of the railway underpass at Okalipuram—part of Bengaluru's proposed eight-lane signal-free corridor—has fallen into neglect, turning into a dumping ground for debris, weeds and contaminated water. The junction lies next to Majestic, the city's busiest transport hub, yet the project now appears abandoned.

Nearly three years ago, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in coordination with the South Western Railway (SWR), had taken up construction of a four-lane railway underpass after completing several works at the junction, including flyovers and a similar four-lane underpass. The aim was to ease traffic movement between Majestic and Magadi Road, Rajajinagar and Malleswaram.

While SWR has completed the portion involving the laying of concrete box segments beneath the live railway line, the approach roads and parts of the work below the track remain unfinished.

The site is now strewn with debris, while dark green contaminated water has accumulated below the track, turning the area into a potential mosquito breeding ground.

Regular commuters say the work appears to be dragging on indefinitely.

"Work on the Okalipuram corridor seems to go on forever even though it is located right next to the railway divisional office and the City Railway Station," said Tejaswi KR, a frequent commuter. "The BBMP does not seem to care about deadlines, and people have almost given up hope."

The project, which began in 2014–15, slowed down significantly after the BBMP was split into multiple corporations. The responsibility for the work has since been transferred to the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, and engineers overseeing the project have also changed.

"We inspected the site recently. Some pipeline-related work is pending, and the railways have also not fully completed their portion," a corporation engineer said.

Senior officials of the South Western Railway did not respond to calls.

Unlike the stalled Ejipura flyover project, the incomplete work at Okalipuram has drawn little public criticism as traffic between Majestic and Magadi Road continues to move, albeit with delays.

Dinesh Gundu Rao, Health Minister and MLA representing the Gandhinagar constituency, said he would review the project and work towards restarting it.

Doctors report rise in GBS cases after Covid-19 pandemic

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Doctors in Bengaluru say they have been witnessing a rise in cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) following the Covid-19 pandemic.

On average, there has been a 15–20% increase in patients with the rare neurological disorder, doctors said.

GBS is a condition in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves, leading to weakness, numbness and, in severe cases, difficulty in breathing or walking.

Dr Manoj Kumar Kanduri, Consultant Neurologist, told *DH*, "We have observed a noticeable increase in GBS cases following the Covid-19 pandemic. This trend aligns with patterns reported across India and globally. While GBS remains rare, our records show a steady rise from pre-pandemic levels, prompting closer monitoring and early intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy or plasma exchange protocols."

Factors such as delayed medical consultations during the pandemic may have contributed, but the correlation with recent Covid infections is evident in patient histories, he said.

Doctors said another concern is that younger and otherwise healthy individuals are increasingly being affected.

Dr Lokesh B, Senior Consultant in neurology, said, "After the Covid-19 pandemic, doctors have observed that even younger or otherwise healthy individuals are developing Guillain-Barré Syndrome following a Covid infection. Earlier, GBS was more commonly seen in older adults, but recent reports show that it can occur across age groups, including young adults who had mild or moderate Covid illness."

In most cases, the condition appears a few days to a few weeks after the infection, when the immune system mistakenly attacks the nerves, he added.

"The scientific evidence shows that people who contract Covid-19 have a higher chance of developing neurological disorders, including GBS, than those who receive the vaccine. The initial symptoms are fast-spreading weakness, numbness in arms or legs and trouble moving," said Dr Keni Ravish Rajiv, Senior Consultant in Neurology and Head of Epilepsy Services at a private hospital.

Govt support

In January, Karnataka announced free treatment for GBS up to Rs 2 lakh in government and empanelled private hospitals.

The key treatment for GBS is IVIG therapy, which helps prevent the disease from worsening. Each gram of the drug used in the therapy costs about Rs 2,000.

Dr Avinash Kulkarni, Consultant Neurologist, said the dosage depends on the patient's weight.

"While the government support is significant, patients also require extensive post-hospitalisation care, including physiotherapy and respiratory support," he said.

Explainer: What is GBS?

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves.

It can cause muscle weakness and numbness. It may lead to difficulty walking, breathing problems, and temporary paralysis.

Early treatment, such as IVIG therapy or plasma exchange, can reduce complications and improve recovery.

Workshop on strengthening campus support held at Nimhans

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) hosted a workshop on March 13 to strengthen on-campus support systems for faculty and student well-being ambassadors.

Attended by 120 faculty members from 47 medical colleges across Karnataka, the workshop aimed to enhance student mental health support in line with the state government's Mental Health Policy for Educational Institutions, released in December 2025 in collaboration with Nimhans.

The sessions focused on equipping faculty members to identify signs of student distress, coordinate support systems, and refine standard operating procedures for crisis situations.

The initiative also envisages developing a network of student well-being ambassadors and mental health champions—faculty members, students and other stakeholders—to play a proactive role in fostering supportive campus environments.

On the occasion, Dr Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology, emphasised the need for a holistic approach involving multiple stakeholders. Future programmes will include peer support training for students.

In the concluding session, Dr Rajani P, Deputy Director (Mental Health), Health and Family Welfare Department, stressed the importance of implementing the state's mental health policy and urged faculty to share their learnings and create student-centered environments in their institutions.

BDA to build 4,251 flats in Rs 3,200-cr push

Multiple housing projects underway across city

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has undertaken multiple housing projects across the city with a combined investment of Rs 3,200 crore.

These projects, currently under various stages of construction, are in Konadasapura, Valagerahalli, Kalathammanahalli, Kenchanapura, and Doddathoguru.

Among the major developments is the Konadasapura Phase 1 Housing Scheme in Bidarahalli hobli, where the BDA is constructing 1,928 flats comprising 480 one-bedroom units, and 1,448 three-bedroom units.

In the same area, the authority has also launched the Konadasapura Phase 3 Housing Scheme, which proposes 532 flats, including 336 two-bedroom units, 112 three-bedroom units, and 84 units with 3.5 bedrooms.

At Valagerahalli, the BDA has taken up Phase 7 of a housing scheme involving 200 flats, comprising 100 two-bedroom units, and 100 units with 2.5 bedrooms.

In Kenchanapura village, located in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, the BDA is developing 363 flats comprising 210 two-bedroom units, and 153 three-bedroom units.

Another major residential project is coming up at Kalathammanahalli in Hesaraghatta, where the authority plans to construct 396 flats, including 264 three-bedroom units and 132 four-bedroom units. The project is located within the Dr K Shivarama Karanth Layout.

The largest of the ongoing projects is in Doddathoguru near Electronics City, where the authority plans to build 832 flats, including 416 three-bedroom units and 416 four-bedroom units.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Appu Fans Association: Puneeth Rajkumar's birthday celebration; Blood donation camp; ST Somashekar, Latha V, Hassan Raghu, Dilip Kumar; Uttarahalli Main Road, Kengeri; 8 am onwards.

Bangalore University Science Festival: SR Niranjan, Shivaprasad SM, SM Jayakar; HN Auditorium, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bangalore University; 9.30 am.

CULTURAL

Special Lecture: 'Poet Da Ra Bendre-A Bird's Eye View; Shivaraj Byadarahalli; Dayanand Sagar College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Kumaraswamy Layout; 10 am.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has negotiated for the purchase of the Schedule property from its owners **Mr.Sathyanarayanan Narayanaswamy** son of P.N.Narayanaswamy and **Mrs.Shobha Durairajan** wife of Sathyanarayanan Narayanaswamy for valuable consideration.

Any Person/s, firm/s, institution/s etc., claiming to have any right, title and interest in the Schedule property or having any claims/objections of whatsoever nature, to the proposed sale of Schedule property in favour of our client, are required to lodge/intimate their claims/objections with documentary evidence in support thereof to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which our client shall proceed with the purchase of Schedule property without any reference to any such claim and the same if any shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable **property bearing Site No. 106, EPID:7884944404, Block-IV, RMV II Stage, Dollars Colony, Bengaluru-560094,** measuring **East** to **West 50 feet** and **North** to **South 80 feet, totally measuring 3998 square feet (371.4 Sq.Mts), consisting of building measuring 3850 Sq.ft** bounded on:

East by : Site Number 107,
West by : Site Number 105,
North by : Road,
South by : Site Number 117.

Mr. Shanmukha.M.S,
S.V.H. LAW ASSOCIATES,
Advocates & Legal consultants,
No.201, 2nd Floor, Brigade Links, 1st Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru 560 020. Mob: 9980565989
Date: 16.03.2026 Place: Bengaluru

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Dy Chief Mechanical Engineer (Carriage Works), Kharagpur Workshop, Kharagpur invites e-tender for the following works. **Sl. No., E-Tender Notice No. & Name of Work are as follows : 1. WLI-UND-1275-1 Dated : 13.03.2026.** Supply, Installation, Commissioning and testing of Water level indicator for coaches with underslung water tank as per the RDSO specification No. IS/RDSOCG/0002:2025 issued June 2025 with corrigendum 1 issued July 2025 or latest and as per Scope of work and Special condition of Contract attached. **Quantity** : 1275 coaches. **Tender Value :** ₹ 3,86,65,650/-. **Earnest Money** : ₹ 3,43,300/-. **2. WLI-OVH-1250-1 Dated : 13.03.2026.** Supply, Installation, Commissioning and testing of Water level indicator for coaches with overhead water tank as per the RDSO specification No. IS/RDSOCG/0002:2025 issued June 2025 with corrigendum 1 issued July 2025 or latest and as per Scope of work and Special condition of Contract attached. **Quantity:** 1250 coaches. **Tender Value :** ₹ 3,79,07,500. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 3,39,500/- **Cost of Tender Document** : Nil for each. **Place of work** : Kharagpur Workshop, South Eastern Railway, Post-Kharagpur, Dist-Paschim Midnapore, Pin-721301 for each. **Contract Period** : 24 Months from the date of issue of LOA for each. **Closing Date and Time of Tender :** At 13.04.2026, 15.00 hrs. for each. **Bidding System :** Single Packet System for each. **Contract Type :** Normal Open works Tender for each. **Tender Type :** Open for each. Detail Tender Notice and Tender Document is available in the e-Portal website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-1306)

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Notification No: KHB/AEF/STP/Suryanagara 4th Ph/KHB/2025-26/SE0355 Dated: 12.03.2026

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for Appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of – Proposed Construction of STP of 20 MLD in Block-1 & STP of 5 MLD in Block-12 for KHB layout in Suryanagara 4th Phase Kasaba/Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Last date for submission of bid is on 25.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/6284/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA STATE TOWN PLANNING BOARD
Office of the Director & Member Secretory, GPO PB # 5257.
M.S. Building Gate IV, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01.
Ph No: 080-22258988, 22353974, 22353976 Fax:080-22389519
e-mail: mskstpb@karnataka.gov.in website: www.kstpb.dtcp.gov.in

No. KSTPB/02/Tender-MTS/2025-26 **DATE:16.03.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for outsourced agency for providing Multi tasking staff **(Tender No:DTCP/2025-26/SE0094), Tender Name: Hiring of Manpower)** for the office of Member Secretary, Karnataka State Town Planning Board, Gate No.4, Multi storeyed building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 through Karnataka public procurement(KPP) Portal. Tender document on KPP Portal platform has been published on **16.03.2026.** The last date for submission of bid **25.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hours.** Date and time of opening of Technical bid is **26.03.2026 at 15.30 Hours** and Date of opening of financial bids is **27.03.2026 at 16.00 Hours.**

Prescribed tender form along with NIT, terms & conditions etc., can be obtained/downloaded from and submitted through Karnataka public procurement portal **(https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

No. KSTPB/FD/e-Auction-2/2025-26 **Date:16.03.2026**

e-Auction

This is to inform that Office of the Member Secretary, Karnataka State Town Planning Board, Gate No.4, Multi storeyed building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 intends to invest its Funds **(Rs.38.00Crore)** in the short terms deposits. E-Auction Notification is published at e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **16.03.2026 vide Auction notice number:DTCP/2025-26/AUCTION6.** The Eligibility Criteria in Annexure-A & Declaration in Annexure-B should be submitted in the e-portal on or before 1**1.30 Hrs of 23.03.2026** and the live bidding will be commenced at **14.30 Hrs** and concluded at **16.30 Hrs on 25.03.2026.** An E.M.D of Rs. 5000/- has to be furnished. The complete details of the e-Auction can be downloaded from **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
Karnataka State Town Planning Board, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/6291/NR/2025-26

ಪಿಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಎಎಫ್ಎಸ್, ಯಲಹಂಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - ೫೬೦೦೬೩
(ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ)

ಪೀಎಮ್ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇन्द्रीय विद्यालय, एएफएस, यलहंका, बेंगलुरु: 560063
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, AFS, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU: 560063
(An Autonomous Body, under Ministry of Education, Government of India)
Website:https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in **Mail:**kvafsyel63@gmail.com **Phone: 08029721121**

Ref: F. 13-331(1) /1054/ 2025-26/KVAFSY/ **16.03.2026**

Firm Registration for the Year 2026-27

In the said session, on the basis of requirement. Registration of firms are called for by submitting prescribed formats for civil work-plumbing, carpentry work, painting work, electrical work, flooring and masonry, supply of drinking water, garbage collection & disposal, catering work, bus/transport facility, tent, lighting and generator services, videography, photography etc. Submit the desired documents in prescribed format before **16.04.2026 till 4 pm** through speed post or by hand in the Vidyalaya office. Firm registration form can be downloaded from school website **https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in** or obtained from the school office from **09 am to 04 pm.**

Sd/- Madan Mohan, Principal
K.V. AFS Yelahanka

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CARRIAGE & WAGON WORKS
Tender Notice No: CWPER-BRAKEVANUPGRADATION

For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Perambur, Chennai -23 invites e-tender for the following work as per the tender notice given in e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Name of work	Upgradation of Brake Van during POH at Carriage & Wagon Works, Perambur.				
Approximate cash value (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Bidding start date	Tender closing date & time	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
13,87,26,648.00	8,43,600.00/-	30.03.2026	13.04.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.	NIL	24 Months

Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in

Office Address: **Chief Workshop Manager,** Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600 023.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Word Trade Centre, 6th Floor, Tower-F, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi

VACANCY CIRCULAR No. 1-03/2026-HR

Sub: Filling up of the post of Advisor in TRAI Regional Office Bengaluru on deputation on foreign service terms- Reg.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India proposes to fill up the following post at its **Regional Office Bengaluru** on deputation on foreign service terms:-

Name of Post	Pay Band & Grade Pay
ADVISOR	Pay Levl-14 Rs, 144200-218200 in Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC plus allowances such as DA, HRA etc., as per Govt. Rules

2. The last date to apply online is **10th April 2026**.

3. Further details can be obtained from the TRAI website www.trai.gov.in

CBC 06202/12/0071/2526

Dr CN Manjunath, MP from Bangalore Rural; S Muniraju, MLA from Dasarahalli; Dr Somnath Chatterjee of Prakriya Hospital; RR College president Raja Reddy; secretary Kiran Reddy; trustee Varun; S Manoj Kumar; Govindaraju Pai; and principal Raghavendra at the health check-up camp.

Health check-up, blood donation camp held at RR College

BENGALURU, DHNS: Around 80,000 to 1 lakh cases of cervical cancer are reported in the country every year, and nearly 40,000 women die of the disease, said Dr CN Manjunath, MP from Bangalore Rural, after inaugurating a free health check-up and blood donation camp at RR College in Chikkabanavara.

He said the Centre is providing free vaccinations against various types of cancer to girls aged between 12 and 15.

"Without a healthy lifestyle, cases of diabetes, blood pressure and mental health issues are increasing among the youth.

"People should adopt a healthy lifestyle and balanced diet rather than fall prey to bad habits," Dr Manjunath said, according to a release.

(L-R) Prof J Vishwanath, Coordinator, Publishing, Research and Public Relations Division; Dr Roopashree U, IQAC Coordinator; Dr Jayarama, Principal; and Bhanushree MS, Coordinator, Basava Study Centre, felicitate Dr Aravind Jatti, president of Basava Samiti, at a seminar on 'Vachana Writers and Personality Development: A Silent Revolution'. The seminar was organised by the Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies in Kengeri Satellite Town on March 13.

Voters struggle to find names in draft roll

BENGALURU, DHNS: Voters are struggling to find their names in the draft electoral roll published for 369 wards under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

The draft electoral roll covering five municipal corporations was published more than a week ago. However, the civic body has not created the 'search by name' option on its portal as done earlier.

Elected representatives have also raised the issue.

Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya on Monday posted on X, stating that voters are unable to verify their votes in the revised electoral roll by name or EPIC number on the GBA portal.

"They are expected to scroll ward by ward, without even knowing which new ward they fall under after delimitation. This is not an oversight. It is a deliberate disenfranchisement by design. As India's tech capital, we deserve better," he posted.

Meanwhile, the GBA extended the deadline to submit claims and objections on the revised draft voters list until March 20. The search option was still not available on the portal as of Monday evening.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	36%
Sunset (Mar 17)	6:30 pm
Sunrise (Mar 18)	6:27 am
Moonrise	4:22 am
Moonset	4:12 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

LPG crisis: Panic booking, visits to agencies by domestic users come down

Some people still report cylinder delivery delays

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Customers who have booked LPG cylinders continue to wait for deliveries, although panic booking seems to have reduced.

Consumers say Indane and Bharatgas are delivering cylinders relatively faster than HP.

A *DH* found that compared to dozens of people visiting the gas agencies for both bookings and deliveries, the number has fallen to just 15-20 people at a given point in time.

The union government on Sunday said LPG cylinder bookings had fallen from 88.8 lakh to 77 lakh.

Lakshmi R, a customer at an Indane gas agency in RR Nagar, was one of the visitors on Monday.

"There were disruptions initially. We did not get confirmation for our booking, but we did not have an issue with supply subsequently".

While some HP consumers received cylinders within two to three days of booking, some have not received them despite waiting for a week.

Shrinidhi Athreya, one of them, said: "Our neighbour and we both have HP. They received their cylinder three days ago, but we have not, despite booking a day before them. The situation is not clear".

LPG distributors had made special arrangements for customers to obtain refills at a ground at Shivajinagar in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

WAR SHOCKS

Roadside eateries

With both cooking oil and LPG prices rising, roadside eateries are facing a hard time.

Some have started raising their prices by Rs 5 to Rs 10, while others plan to wait for a few days.

Arun Gowda, who sells egg rice on Mysuru Road, said, "Cooking oil rates have gone up, so have gas prices. I raised my price by Rs 5 per plate. Otherwise, I will suffer losses."

Muniraju Swamy, a roadside vendor selling idli and rice items near Race Course Road, said: "We saw in the news that ships are coming to India with gas. So, we are hoping the situation will calm down. Hence, we have not increased the prices. If the crisis continues, we might increase".

Hotels will get LPG cylinders soon, says Muniyappa

BENGALURU, DHNS: Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa reiterated on Monday there was no LPG shortage in Karnataka and promised that cylinders would soon be supplied to hotels as well.

He spoke to reporters after holding a meeting with officials from IOC, HPC, BPC and GAIL to review the LPG supply situation.

Department Secretary M Kanagavalli and Commissioner M R Ravikumar were also present.

"Gas supplies are arriving through ships and the situation will return to normal within a week or two. Confusion has arisen in some places because people, out of fear, are booking more cylinders than they actually need. Consumers should not panic," he stated.

About 850 tonnes of gas is supplied in the state every day, but consumption has increased. He appealed to consumers to use it sparingly.

The distribution of LPG cylinders to each state is decided by the Centre based on consumption. Supplies are continuing and there is no politics involved in this, Muniyappa clarified.

According to him, the chief minister is in constant touch with the union government and the concerned agencies, and is conveying the state's requirements through letters.

There is no supply issue for hospitals, hotels and other commercial users, and they are being provided the required number of cylinders. Generally, one cylinder lasts 25-30 days in urban areas and about 45 days in rural areas, and supply is being made accordingly.

'Vulgar, regressive': Netizens slam song from Dhruva Sarja's 'KD: The Devil'

Pop culture shouldn't normalise old prejudices, say critics

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

A just-released number from Dhruva Sarja's 'KD: The Devil' is facing a huge backlash on social media.

"The most vulgar song ever produced in India," a netizen posted on X on Sunday.

The Kannada film, directed by Prem — known for big hits like 'Jogi' and 'Excuse Me' — launched the item number 'Sarse ninna seraga sarse' (Move, move the end of your sari) on Saturday. The song features Nora Fatehi and Sanjay Dutt.

Movie buffs on social media are calling out the song for its sexual, obscene and tasteless lyrics, written by Prem.

"Such cheap lyrics," wrote an X user. Another user recalled legendary Kannada lyricists like Chi Udayashankar, Hunasuru Krishnamurthy, Hamsalekha and Jayant Kaikini and lamented the dire state of Kannada film songs today. The suggestive choreography is also facing criticism.

The dance bar number, also released in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu, has run into criticism for its Kannada and Hindi versions.

Another song from 'KD: The Devil', 'Annthamma jodetthu kano', released in December, also has questionable lines in its lyrics — 'rande mundera kannu, nimmele beeldirli kanro'. This translates to, 'May the evil eyes of prostitutes and widows not fall on you'.

The producers said it was colloquial usage, but critics say pop culture shouldn't normalise old prejudices.

This is not the first time a song from a Dhruva Sarja film has faced backlash.

In 2021, when the song 'Kharabu' from the film 'Pogaru' was released, it was slammed for promoting harassment of women. The film faced criticism for scenes that portrayed the hero as aggressive and antisocial.

'KD: The Devil' is produced by K V N Productions whose Yash-starrer 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Adults' also received backlash for obscene scenes in one of its promotional videos.

SSLC exams from tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: A total of 9,02,889 students from 15,941 high schools from across the state have registered for the class 10 (SSLC) examination, which begins from Wednesday with the first language paper.

The examination for Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, English and Sanskrit will be held from 10 am to 1.15 pm at 2,871 examination centres.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) is web-streaming the examination process to prevent malpractices.

All types of electronic devices, including mobile phones, smart watches and earphones, are prohibited in the examination centres.

The use of mobile phones is prohibited for officers and staff involved in security work and examination duty. Only the chief of the examination centre will be allowed to use basic mobile phones without a camera facility.

The KSEAB has also insisted that the students follow the dress code prescribed by the educational institutions and as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and other state-owned transport corporations will provide free bus service for the students appearing for the examinations.

The students can travel free of cost by showing their ID cards and admission cards during the examination.

5 arrested in crackdown on mule bank accounts

Gang had lured students with scholarship promise

BENGALURU, DHNS

Continuing its efforts to crack down on mule account networks, officials from Karnataka's Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) have arrested five people who allegedly lured students with the promise of scholarships, to open bank accounts for use in cybercrimes.

The arrested individuals are Raja, 23, Vakdoth Vakeel, 24, both farmers from Vijayanagar district; Zeeshan Ansari, 22, a hotel worker from Jharkhand; Akash, 32, a DJ from Chhattisgarh; and Sahil, 22, a student from Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh).

Investigations revealed that Vakeel and Raju approached the students of the post matric professional boys' hostel located on Kalasapur Road in Gadag.

"By gaining their trust through false promises of scholarship money and other inducements, they convinced the students to open bank accounts in their respective names at the Bank of Maharashtra in Gadag. The accused themselves provided the initial deposit of Rs 2,000/- for each account. After the accounts were opened, the accused deceitfully collected the passbooks, ATM cards, internet banking details and the SIM cards linked to these accounts," a CCU statement said.

On March 11, cyber command investigators learnt that Vakeel and Raja were travelling to Goa to hand over the bank account kits to the other suspects.

Investigators tracked their location and nabbed all five suspects.

"During the inquiry, it was confirmed that the suspects had lured innocent stuents with false promises, to open bank accounts to misuse them for cyber fraud, and subsequently collected all their account-related information," the CCU said.

From the suspects, officials recovered eight bank kits (comprising passbooks, ATM cards, linked SIM cards and internet banking usernames and passwords) and 11 mobile phones.

"The investigation has revealed that the suspects have opened several more such accounts. Further investigative procedures are still pending, as well as tracing and taking appropriate legal action against three more absconding suspects involved in the next tier of this crime," the CCU said.

The investigations were overseen by Pronab Mohanty, DGP (Cyber Command), Karnataka.

Sahitya Akademi award for Amaresh Nugadoni

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Kannada writer Amaresh Nugadoni, 66, has been selected for Sahitya Akademi Award for 2025 in Kannada. He has got the award for his short story collection, 'Dada Serisu Tande'.

This is the fifth short story collection of Nugadoni.

SUZUKI
e-ACCESS
Spot ON!
The new e-scooter standard
SUPERIOR RIDE
WITH LONG YEARS OF
BATTERY LIFE
Powered by
SUZUKI Technology
4X* LONGER BATTERY LIFE
*MAINTENANCE-FREE BELT DRIVE
65°
TIP-OVER SENSOR
KEY-LESS
*Based on Suzuki's Internal Testing
*T&C apply
AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS: BANGALORE: Banaswadi: BHOJANNA SUZUKI, Ph: 9148656565, Bellary Road: MEGHAVATH SUZUKI, Ph: 9632899459, M G Road: MEGHDOOTH SUZUKI, Ph: 9513533384, HBR Layout: MEGHDOOTH SUZUKI: Ph: 9513533374., Hosur Road: NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, HSR Layout: NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, Bannerghatta Road: NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, Koramangala: ORION SUZUKI, Ph: 080-25524747, 9535081055, JP NAGAR: ORION SUZUKI, Ph: 96060 37441. Rajaji Nagar: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754163, Mathikere: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754136, T. Dasarahalli, Tumkur Road: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754150, Basaweshwara Nagar: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754127, Sheshadripuram: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754171, Kottigepalya: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754131, Nelamangala: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8123754142, Vasanthnagar: VALUE SUZUKI, Ph: 9845906084/ 9108258679, Yelhanka: HONNASIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9945004047, Basavanagudi: ADVAITH SUZUKI, Ph: 9880741841, Kathriguppe: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 080-26697070/ 8080, 8884446504/08/02, BTM Layout: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446512, Kanakapura Road: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446503, RR Nagar: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446502, Old Airport Road(Domlur): ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739969996, Whitefield: ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739969995, K. R. Puram: ARYAN SUZUKI,Ph: 9739949998, Mahadevpura: ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739929996, Hoodi: ARYAN SUZUKI – Bike Zone, Ph: 08047470000/8073783992, KH Road: AVANISH SUZUKI - 9591931113, KH Road: AVANISH SUZUKI BIKEZONE-9900879000, Vijaynagar: AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 8971900111, 8197800222, Kengeri: AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 8197900111, 9108945333, Nagarbhavi: AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 9606988444/ 9148233644, HOSAKOTE: DAIVIK SUZUKI, 9449046049, 7899366585,

NICE not replying to govt: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Monday told the Assembly that the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE) was "not responding" to communication from the state government.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

In Ever Loving Memory of

D. SIVAPPA
29 Jan 1922 - 17 March 1995
Your Ways, Character and Ideals remain with us forever.
Vinod, Kawal, Nishita, Vishal, Tanya, Lara

Unanswered questions: Speaker walks out, govt red-faced

Khader's action draws praise from Opposition

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an unprecedented development, Speaker U T Khader walked out of the Assembly on Monday, angered over the government not sufficiently answering questions by lawmakers.

On Monday, Home Minister G Parameshwara tabled 84 answers against 230 'unstarred' questions. Last week, Khader was miffed that only about 50 questions were answered by the government.

"This is the fifth time. Even after warnings, they (government) haven't improved. They come like Gods, they go home like Gods," leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said.

Khader said he had issued "clear orders" from his chair 4 times. "This House isn't for ministers. It is for lawmakers who meet once in 3 months to discuss their issues. All of them ask questions. Only 15 become 'starred' (they are answered on the floor of the House). If the remaining (unstarred) questions go unanswered, why should they come to this House?" Khader said.

"Despite clear orders, there's been no improvement. How do we run this House?" Khader said.

"So, till ministers and secretaries concerned explain this, I won't run this House," Khader said, before adjourning the House and walking out.

CM Siddaramaiah, Ashoka, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and senior ministers held a meeting with Khader. "The CM has issued directions. Notices will be issued to secretaries. If any of them have a high number of unanswered questions, they'll be suspended," Parameshwara told the Assembly.

"In revenue department, for example, there are 91 questions, of which 20 have been answered. The situation is similar in other departments. On behalf of the government, I assure the House that this won't happen again," he said. The Opposition members hailed Khader for the way he pulled up the government. Parameshwara said what Khader did earlier was "probably the second or third such instance" in the Assembly's history.

Speaker U T Khader makes a point during the session in Legislative Assembly at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday.

R ASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition

"There are a few IAS officers who haven't come to office for 8-9 months. I'll show records. They'll have time to play golf, but not to provide answers to the legislature? Why should they be in service? IAS stands for I Am Sorry.

Ashoka demanded the suspension of a few secretaries to send a strong message.

On Monday evening, Siddaramaiah wrote a note to all his ministers asking them to seek an explanation from their secretaries on unanswered questions. Also, he said MLAs must be informed in writing as to when their questions will be answered.

DKS busy in Delhi, has no time for B'luru: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka on Monday attacked Deputy CM D K Shivakumar for spending more time travelling to Delhi and neglecting Bengaluru development.

Ashoka said this while initiating an adjournment motion, which Speaker U T Khader said would be converted into a discussion. Shivakumar was not present at that time.

"Bengaluru contributes 65% of the state's revenue, but there's no development," Ashoka said. "The deputy CM has no time. He's busy travelling between Bengaluru and Delhi. He's got his own problems," Ashoka said in a veiled reference to Shivakumar's CM ambition.

Ashoka said the DCM, minister in charge of the city, had been speaking on 'Brand Bengaluru' for the last 2-3 years. "The only brand is garbage, bad roads, traffic jams and e-Khata problem," he said.

The BJP leader claimed that the government had not paid municipal authorities to manage waste for the last 6-7 months. "All corporations sought Rs 500-600 crore each. None got funds," he said, adding Shivakumar 'threatened' MLAs who sought funds, saying garbage would be dumped in their constituencies.

Minorities angry with govt over shortage of cemeteries: KBG

We don't have land to allot for burial grounds, says minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Religious minorities are angry with the government for not providing sufficient space for cemeteries even as there is an enormous shortage of land, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said in the Assembly on Monday.

"Among Hindus, there are those who bury and burn their dead. Around Bengaluru, those who used to bury have started to burn because there's no space for cemeteries," Gowda said.

"But the two minority communities (Muslims and Christians) can't burn. We must give them land. They're angry with us for not providing land," Gowda said. "Nobody understands when we say there's no land. How much can we provide?"

Gowda was replying to a question by Aurad BJP MLA Prabhu Chavan.

"All governments have tried, over the last 10 years, to see to it that all villages have burial grounds based on their needs. Even the High Court has pursued this. Still, we've not been able to provide space in some places," Gowda said.

"All the land that was available has been given to farmers and various other purposes. Now, we're left with no land for burial grounds," the minister said. In the last three years, the government has had to purchase land for the purpose of burial at a cost of Rs 58 crore, Gowda said.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda speaks in the Legislative Assembly.

Intervening, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka asked the government to address the dire situation.

"People aren't ready to leave even one acre for schools and hospitals, let alone burial grounds," Ashoka, a former revenue minister, said. "I had asked deputy commissioners to reserve space for schools, anganwadis and burial grounds before granting lands. This is important keeping in mind the next 25-30 years," he said.

Concurring, Gowda said his department would work towards reserving space.

"In villages, we're unable to provide youngsters with playgrounds and parks," Gowda said. "We're now having to ask with a begging bowl."

Minister laments poor condition of public universities in state

BENGALURU, DHNS

Expressing his dismay over the state of affairs at public universities in Karnataka, Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar on Monday said that he was put in the awkward position of having to defend the poorly-run varsities.

MLCs cutting across party lines raised concerns over multiple issues, including allegations of corruption, poor quality of education, among others, ailing state-run universities in Karnataka. Sudhakar said that the government had taken cognisance of allegations levelled against three varsities, with inquiry committees being constituted to probe them.

"Although the government has made it clear that marks cards are not to be printed, one university spent Rs 11 crore on printing certificates. Universities have been clearly instructed to provide these certificates through NAD and Digilocker. Certificates are to be printed with minimal security features for those students wishing to pursue higher studies abroad," said the minister.

Sudhakar said that he would welcome a detailed discussion on the condition of higher education in the state. "But political and ideological differences must be kept out of the discussion. We will consider all suggestions made with the intent of improving our universities," he said.

Pointing out that the condition of universities was not worse off than it had been in the past, Sudhakar rued that he was nevertheless the one being blamed. "Universities have been set up in the past following demands from elected representatives, with the need for the varsity not being considered. I agree with those members who pointed out that universities had been set up for just 1,000 students," he said.

The minister opined that the condition of the state-run universities was 'chronic', fixing which required a systematic approach. "Some universities are struggling to pay retirement benefits," rued Sudhakar. A Cabinet sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, which had been constituted to study the condition of public universities, was likely to submit its report soon, said Sudhakar.

Committee formed on revision of syllabus for UG courses

In a bid to help students tackle competitive examinations, the Higher Education Department has constituted a panel headed by former Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Dr Thimme Gowda, which is expected to submit its recommendations. The committee will focus on revision of syllabus for undergraduate courses, said Minister Sudhakar.

Rizwan regrets BJP opposing allocations for minorities

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad on Monday expressed regret over BJP's move to criticise allocations made for minorities in the State budget and sarcastically calling it "brothers' budget."

During a discussion on the State Budget in the Assembly, Arshad said that the government had earmarked Rs 4,790 crore for minorities even though the community constitutes about 15% of the population.

"The minorities' share in the budget is still less than 1%, yet the BJP is objecting to it," he said, adding that minorities also contribute to the economy through property tax, vehicle tax and GST.

Arshad said that the Constitution mentioned "fraternity" and "brotherhood", but the BJP was unwilling to accept minorities as equal citizens. "Are we not your brothers too?" he asked, adding he would take their sarcasm in a positive spirit.

Countering him, Tirthahalli MLA Araga Jnanendra said that the BJP had opposed only the proposal for separate hostels and educational institutions for minorities, arguing that children from all communities should study together to strengthen social harmony.

RIZWAN ARSHAD
Shivajinagar MLA

"The minorities' share in the budget is still less than 1%, yet the BJP is objecting to it.

Shimoga City MLA Channabasappa Shivanna also said that the party was opposing what it termed "separatist ideas", not welfare measures for minorities. Arshad, however, maintained that just as hostels exist for SC, ST and OBC students, similar facilities for minorities were meant to support educational access for disadvantaged sections.

During the budget discussion, Doddaballapur MLA Dheeraj Muniraju criticised the government for allocating a relatively small share for capital expenditure compared to the Centre. He said that the budget earmarked about Rs 72,000 crore for capital expenditure, around 16% of total spending, while nearly 74% of the outlay was going towards salaries, pensions and subsidies. In contrast, he noted that the Union budget of Rs 73.47 lakh crore had allocated about Rs 12.8 lakh crore, around 23%, for capital expenditure.

Muniraju also rejected claims that the Centre was neglecting Karnataka, stating that the state had received about Rs 63,000 crore as tax devolution and Rs 17,000 crore as grants-in-aid for capital expenditure. He said several Central schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana and Ayushman Bharat had benefited millions of people in Karnataka.

Flagging concerns over state's limited investment in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing, the BJP leader said that the Bengaluru's IT-BT ecosystem needed stronger policy and financial support to remain globally competitive.

The IT-BT sector—which contributes significantly to the economy—had received only around Rs 953 crore as capital outlay over five years. "For a sector that drives innovation, there is hardly any meaningful support for artificial intelligence, biotechnology or quantum computing," he said.

COUNCIL SNIPPETS

'All varsities under UUCMS software soon'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar on Monday announced that all universities will be brought under the Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS) 2.0.

Replying to a question by Congress' Ramesh Babu, who suggested that since UUCMS is an important project implemented by the government, deemed universities should also be included under its scope, which would benefit more than 8 lakh students there. Responding to it, Sudhakar said steps are being taken to develop UUCMS 2.0. Under this, deemed universities will be included, he said.

State has not lost single med seat: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil informed the House that the state has not lost any medical seat because of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

He was replying to a question by Congress' Ivan D'Souza. The minister said, "We have not lost any seat because of NEET and for rural students we are giving 15% horizontal reservation. We will soon come out with a plan to train students from rural parts to crack NEET."

"I agree that rural students have less options to get training compared to their city counterparts. I will discuss with the Higher Education Minister and design a plan to train rural students," the minister said.

ONE-ON-ONE

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hold talks at the chief minister's office at the Vidhana Soudha on Monday.

Priority for PE teachers in recruitment: Madhu

BENGALURU, DHNS: School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa informed the Council on Monday that the process to recruit 15,000 teachers will be taken up, and priority will be given to recruitment of physical education teachers.

Replying to a question by BJP's Chidanandagowda, who pointed out that physical education teachers had not been recruited for several years now. "Mass drills that used to be conducted on Saturdays are no longer happening at schools, and it is reported that moral education will be taught during physical education periods," he said.

Chairman Basavaraj Horatti also questioned the government why moral education is being taught during physical education periods? He suggested that moral education should be taught in a separate period.

Responding to it, Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that in the state, 3,361 posts of PE teachers in primary schools and 1,841 posts in high schools are vacant. He assured that in the upcoming recruitment of 15,000 teachers, priority will be given to PE teachers.

He clarified that moral education is not being taught during physical education periods. "Directions have been issued to allocate a separate period for moral education," he mentioned.

No plan to hike power tariff for domestic use: Govt

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government is not planning on hiking domestic power tariffs, minister and Floor Leader in the Legislative Council N S Boseraju informed the Upper House of the state legislature on Monday.

Boseraju, replying to a question from JD(S) MLC C N Manhegowda, said that any proposal for hiking the power tariff had to be submitted 120 days in advance. "The proposal submitted on November 29,2025 contains no mention of hiking fixed charges for domestic use," said Boseraju, answering the query on behalf of Energy Minister K J George.

However, six electricity supply companies (ESCOMS) in the state incurred losses to the tune of Rs 4,516 crore in 2024-25, said Boseraju, adding that Bescom alone had reported losses of Rs 2,802 crore. "The issue is pending before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) and we are waiting for their decision on the suggestions to overcome our losses," he said.

Queried about the huge losses that Bescom had incurred, Boseraju pointed out that the unit charge levied by Bescom was Re 1 lower than what was charged by other ESCOMS. "Although KERC has fixed the unit price at Rs 9.54, Bescom is charging Rs 8.59/unit," he said.

Boseraju further added that although KERC had capped expenditure for purchase of power at Rs 27,190 crore, Bescom had spent Rs 27,895 crore – an excess of Rs 706 crore. Meanwhile, the state government had spent Rs 25,076 crore on the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, providing power to 1.65 crore households, the minister added.

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Caution Public Notice is issued by the undersigned on behalf of his clients respectively namely (1) Smt. Lalithamma, (2)Sri.S.A.Manjunath (3)Sri.Udayakumar (4)Sri.H.Anjinappa (5)Smt.Gopamma now represented by her children's Venkatesh & Chandrashekar and (6) Smt. Hamsa.M.Raju who are absolute owner's / agreement holders of the below mentioned scheduled property which are agricultural lands and are adjoining each other situated at Sy No: 80, Shettigere Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. My 1st client Smt.Lalithamma is the original grantee of land measuring 2-00 acres situated at Sy No: 80, Block No-5, Now Phoded as new Sy No: 122, my 2nd client Sri.S.A.Manjunath is the original grantee of the original grantee of land measuring 2-00 acres situated at Sy No: 80, Block No-5, Now Phoded as new Sy No: 123, my 2nd client Sri.S.A.Manjunath has purchased 2-00 Acres of Land each totally measuring 6-00 Acres in Sy No: 80 of Shettigere Village from the original grantees (1)Basavaraju, grantee of 2-00 Acres of Land in Block No-2, (2)Smt.Kaveri grantee of 2-00 of land in Block No-9, (3) Sri.Brahmadevaiah, grantee of Block No-14. My 3rd client Shri.Udayakumar is the purchaser and owner of land measuring 2-00 acres situated at Sy No: 80, Block-13, of Shettigere Village, from the original grantee Shri.krishnappa, my 4th Client Shri.Anjenappa is the absolute owner of 2-00 acres of land situated at Sy No: 80 Block-10 purchased from the original grantee Smt.Sridevi, my 5th client Smt.Gopamma now represented by her son's Venkatesh & Chandrasekhar are the absolute owners of 2-00 acre of land situated at sy No: 80, Block No-12, and my 6th Client Smt.Hamsa.M.Raju is the absolute owners of 2-00 Acre land situated at Sy No: 80, Block No-11. Since grant or purchase or agreement, my clients are in peaceful possession and in enjoyment of the above described properties which is morefully described in the schedule herein below and hereafter words called the scheduled property.

It is learnt that some third persons have created bogus documents and got poded a new Sy No: 125 out of old Sy No: 80 of Shettygere Village for 24 acres of land also got obtained PID Khatha No: 150200209006210 09 from Doodajala Gram Panchyat, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore and are offering to sell the land and are bringing the prospective alleged purchasers and are showing the land belonging to my clients as described above as land bearing new poded Sy No: 125 which is fraudulent document. Hence public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property alleged bearing new Sy No: 125 out of old Sy No: 80, PID Khatha No: 150200209006210 09 of Shettygere Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of 18 Acres of lands belonging to my clients detailed above bounded on, East: Property belongs Hamsa. M.Raju, West : Sadahalli Main Road, North : Sadahalli Village Boundary, South: Sy No: 101, 102.

If anybody has any claim over the schedule property measuring 18 acres may kindly lodge their objections along with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this caution public notice.

S. JAYARAMA BHATT, Advocate,
No: 9/11, : 506, Commerce House, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase the Property bearing No. **3347/B,** BBMP E Aasthi Property No.3347/B **(E.P.I.D No: 9829562464),** measuring East to West (15.50+12.70)/2 Mts. and North to South (19.80+13.70)/2 Mts., totally measuring **236.17 Sq. Mts.** along with a Building standing thereon measuring 313.17 Sq.Mts. of Built up area, situated at **13th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore** and bounded on;
East by : Property No. 3347/A;
West by : Private Property;
North by : Road;
South by : Road.
From its Owners **Mrs. Chandrika Chelvaroyan, wife of Late A.P. Chelvaroyan and her son Mr. Shriram Arcot Chelvaroyan.**
Persons having any rights over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.

Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL
Advocates
42 High Street, No.775,
2nd Floor, 100 feet Road,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038
Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HRISHI KESAV RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI** Residing at No. 90/d. 1st Main, Duo Heights Layout, Bengaluru - 560 068, have changed my name to **HRISHI KESAV** vide affidavit dated 16-03-2026 before notary H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **HRISHI KESAV** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAYANA N** D/o Nagaraj Krishnappa, R/at No.5, S2, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, New BEL Road, Bengaluru -560 094, have changed my name to **NAYANA NAGARAJ** vide affidavit dated 12-03-2026 before notary Ambika S, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **NAYANA NAGARAJ** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RENUKA DEVI CHETTRI** residing at No. 774, SLNS Residency, 4th Floor, 17th Main, Sector-3 HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102, have changed my name to **RENUKA DEVI CHETRI** vide affidavit dated 10-03-2026 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **RENUKA DEVI CHETRI** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMA KAMATH** and **SUMA SURESH KAMATH,** R/at No. 62, Kanasu, Silicon City Layout, 3rd Main, Chunchaghatta Main Road, Konanakunte, Bengaluru-560062, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **SUMA KAMATH** vide affidavit dated 13-03-2026 before notary G.R. Rajanna, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **Mallaraj Urs,** residing at Apt.20021, TATA Riva Club House, Husukur Main Road, Dasanapura Goblin, Bengaluru - 562123, have lost my **Original Sale Deed Document No./ Identification: 8027/2016-17.** While in transit. If found please contact: **9980168913**

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

Muslims themselves have encroached Waqf assets: Zameer

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for Housing, Minorities Welfare and Wakf Zameer Ahmed Khan told the Legislative Assembly that only 17% of 1.12 lakh Waqf properties are free from encroachment and Muslims themselves have usurped the religious assets.

He was replying to a question by Afzalpur Congress MLA MY Patil.

"There are 1,12,860 acres of Waqf properties in the state. Of this, we have with us only 20,054 acres," Zameer said.

"There are 17,969 acres under encroachment. We lost 47,263 acres under the Inam Abolition Act and 23,627 acres to the Land Reforms Act," he said.

"After I became minister, I started Waqf Adalats to address these encroachments. But this became a huge issue," Zameer said. "All Waqf properties were given not by the government, but by private individuals. They've been encroached by Muslims themselves."

Intervening, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said there is a major issue with Waqf because of "arbitrary" claims. "In Chikkaballapur, the school in which Sir M Visvesvaraya studied was claimed by the Waqf Board," he said.

Zameer Ahmed Khan

Ashoka also demanded an investigation into Waqf encroachment. "What about the Windsor Manor hotel? How did you leave that out? Have you once laid claim to Windsor Manor? You won't, because you go eat food and drink coffee there," he said.

Khan assured the House that no temple and educational institution will be claimed as a Waqf property.

Parts of state witness thundershowers; Bidar farmer dies in lightning strike

BENGALURU, DHNS

A wind turbine goes up in flames following a lightning strike at Yembli village in Kudligi taluk of Vijayanagar district on Monday.

Several parts of Kittur and Kalyana Karnataka regions experienced thundershowers, along with gusty winds on Monday.

With the maximum temperatures in most parts of north Karnataka hovering around 40 degree Celsius, the evening showers gave the region some respite from sweltering heat.

A farmer in Humnabad taluk of Bidar district died in a lightning strike. Vaijanath Sheregar (60), a native of Muttangi village, was struck dead by lightning when he was grazing cattle at his farm. His son Srinivas sustained severe burns in the incident.

The Mannaekhelli police have registered a case. Many parts of Humnabad and Chitaguppa taluks witnessed moderate showers, with thunder activity and strong winds.

Kalaburagi city saw light showers while Chincholi experienced hailstorm.

Thundershowers lashed several parts of Vijayanagara district, including Hosapete, Kudligi and Hagaribommanahalli towns on Monday evening. A wind turbine gutted following a lightning strike at Yembli village in Kudligi taluk.

Ballari city, Sandur and Kampli also received light showers. Ballari was reeling under 40 degrees Celsius a couple of days back.

Davangere city and parts of the district witnessed hailstorm. Many parts of Kodagu experienced the first shower of the season on Monday. The evening showers brought cheers to coffee growers in the hilly district.

Parts of Chamarajanagar and Mysuru districts also witnessed hailstorm.

'Perils' of political hoardings come in for scrutiny in Assembly

House passes Bill on regulating advertisements in ULBs

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legislative Assembly on Monday passed the Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The bill proposes to enable urban local bodies (ULBs) regulate the display of advertisements and also charge a fee.

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh said the amendment to the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 seek to fix advertisement fees and generate revenue for cash-strapped ULBs. He admitted many advertisers had not paid fees for years, leading to revenue loss.

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar questioned the government's stand on political banners.

"The commissioner turns a blind eye to illegal flexes on politicians' birthdays. The banner and flex menace is causing accidents by blocking traffic signals and people have been injured due to hoardings crashing down," he said.

Basavanagudi MLA Ravi Subramanya demanded review of guidelines within the GBA limits stating that private advertisements were being displayed on shops, school buildings and even over storm-water drains.

"How can Bescom give permission when such displays require 40 to 50 kilowatts of power?" he sought to know.

Tumakuru City MLA Jyothi Ganesh demanded a total ban on political banners and advertisements, citing difficulties in enforcing penalties.

"Political banners and cut-outs are often put up without paying any tax to local bodies. They are not removed for months. How much tax has the local body collected so far? The ruling party banners are never pulled down," rued Terdal MLA Siddu Savadi, who urged the government to exempt tax on private buildings and during village fairs and festivals.

Drawing attention to the dangers of unauthorised hoardings, Yelahanka MLA S R Vishwanath said, "Hoardings blown away during heavy winds and rain have caused injuries and even deaths. The government must mercilessly remove unauthorised advertisements and penalise violators." He also called for similar rules in gram panchayats and on national highways.

Mangaluru City South MLA Vedavyas Kamath objected to monopoly in hoarding tenders. "Even police checkposts have not been spared of advertisements," he said.

The minister assured the House of framing clear rules to address all the concerns, especially to prevent advertisements in places that inconvenience the public. He added that advertisement rights would be tendered transparently and drone surveys and artificial intelligence would be used to map hoardings for facilitating proper fee collection by urban local bodies.

Earlier, the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2026 tabled by Home minister G Parameshwara was passed. The amendment transfers powers to the Police Establishment Board to enable quicker transfers of officers in cases of misconduct, gross negligence, dereliction of duty or moral turpitude.

Congress MPs creating 'chaos' in Parliament: HDD writes to Sonia

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Former prime minister and Rajya Sabha member H D Deve Gowda on Monday wrote a letter to senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, expressing concern over the "chaos" inside the parliament and its premises caused by Opposition parties, particularly Congress.

In his letter, Gowda said he had been "greatly disturbed" by recent developments in the parliament, which he attributed primarily to the Opposition parties.

"I honestly feel that it may immensely harm the foundations of our democracy and leave a trail of indelible bitterness," Gowda wrote, referring to the recent disruptions in the parliament.

Gowda stated that he believes Congress MPs, led by the Leader of Opposition, have been responsible for frequent disruptions, slogan-shouting, and demonstrations in recent days.

The nonagenarian Janata Dal (Secular) leader added: "My idea of parliamentary democracy has been built on the lessons and guidance imparted by our founding fathers, such as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B R Ambedkar, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, among others. In my long exposure, I have never witnessed parliament in such chaos and casualness as we have seen recently."

Criticising Rahul Gandhi without naming him directly, Gowda wrote, "He cannot think that his success lies in operating outside rules and traditions. When we take an oath as parliamentarians, we also indirectly commit ourselves to its rules and established procedures."

He urged Sonia Gandhi to speak to her party leaders and encourage a return to the parliamentary decorum.

Siddaramaiah hosts dinner for 14 ministers

Internal quota, bypoll nominees among issues discussed

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hosted dinner for 14 ministers, including his close aides Byrathi Suresh, Zameer Ahmed Khan, Krishna Byre Gowda and Dinesh Gundu Rao, at his official residence 'Cauvery' on Monday.

The CM reportedly discussed the contentious issue of internal reservation, even as dalit ministers have been holding consultations amid stiff opposition from the BJP and sections of the SC (Left) communities, which are demanding implementation of internal quota in the 56,000 new recruitments announced by the government recently.

With the Cabinet divided on the issue, the Siddaramaiah government has been put in a tight spot. As the legislature is in session, the ruling party is wary of the Opposition launching a coordinated attack in both Houses, which could trigger a backlash from the Scheduled Caste communities in the upcoming local bodies' elections and also impact the 2028 Assembly elections.

Source ssaid the meeting also discussed the party's candidates for the upcoming bypolls to the Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies, which fell vacant following the demise of Shamanur Shivashankarappa and H Y Meti, respectively.

While Zameer favoured giving the Davangere South ticket to a Muslim candidate, members of the Shamanur family are keen to field one of their own.

Similarly, the children of the late Meti have expressed their desire to contest the bypolls. The chief minister is expected to hold further discussions before finalising the party's candidates for the April 9 byelections.

Absentee ministers, officers draw members' ire in Upper House too

BENGALURU, DHNS: Many ministers and officers were found absent to the proceedings of the Legislative Council on Monday.

Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy questioned this and urged Deputy Chairman M K Pranesh, who was presiding, to adjourn the House.

"Questions are not being answered. Our member Kishore Kumar Puttur has never received proper replies whenever he asked questions. He is still asking questions. By not answering, the government is saying these are the questions that cannot be answered. Are we asking questions that cannot be answered?," Narayanaswamy said.

JD(S) member Bhoje Gowda said, "In the lower House, even the Speaker was angry. He expressed displeasure at the behaviour of officials and ministers. We too are not getting answers, serious matters are not being taken up. What should we do in such a situation?"

It was pointed out that 140 questions were supposed to be answered on Monday, but only 40 were answered. Pranesh instructed the government to take action in this regard.

Floor leader Boseraju said, "Efforts will be made to rectify the problem. It will be brought to the attention of the chief minister. Instructions have been given to the chief secretary. Steps will be taken to ensure this does not happen again".

Iran strikes Gulf energy, transport infra

Iran, from Page 1

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Monday they had targeted Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion Airport in Israel, as well as military bases used by US forces in the UAE and Bahrain.

"By now they have... understood what kind of nation they are dealing with, one that does not hesitate to defend itself and is ready to continue the war wherever it may lead, and take it as far as necessary," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters in Tehran.

Meanwhile, explosions hit the Iranian capital on Monday as air defence systems were activated, and Israel said it had also targeted the cities of Shiraz and Tabriz.

More than two weeks into the Middle East war, Israeli military spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin said they still had "thousands of targets in Iran, and we are identifying new targets every day".

Trump called this weekend for world powers to send warships to escort tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries one fifth of global crude.

He told the Financial Times it would be "very bad for the future of NATO" if they refused, and he has threatened to delay a planned summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

EU foreign ministers were set to discuss the issue and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was working with allies on a plan but ruled out a NATO mission.

Several European governments rejected the idea outright, with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's spokesman saying the war had "nothing to do with NATO".

Japan and Australia said they would not be deploying warships.

Over 86,000 govt employees...

Govt employees, from Page 1

"While periodic revisions in salaries and pensions are essential to account for inflation, maintain morale, and ensure the efficient delivery of public services, they also have significant implications for the state's fiscal management," the Medium Term Fiscal Plan 2026-30 said.

"The resulting increase in committed expenditure reduces short-term flexibility in budget allocation and necessitates careful prioritisation of developmental and capital outlays."

The 5th State Finance Commission has specifically asked the government to introduce "stringent" performance assessment and identify "unnecessary" staff whose work is redundant.

The government could not carry out recruitment for nine months, between November 2024 and August 2025, because of a freeze imposed to finalise internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SC).

Subsequently, facing massive protests by job aspirants over the delay in hiring, the government decided on February 27 to fill up 56,432 posts via direct recruitment. These posts will be filled up based on 50% reservation—15% for SC, 3% ST and 32% OBC.

While a government order asks departments to start the recruitment process for 56,432 posts within 30 days, the SC (Left) community is rallying for the implementation of internal reservation within the 15% reservation. However, there is resistance to internal reservation from the SC (Right) section.

A special meeting of the Cabinet on March 27 is expected to take a final decision on the matter.

Signing of India-US trade deal...

Trade deal, from Page 1

Following the Supreme Court's judgment, the Trump administration came out with a new 10% tariff last month, which will remain valid for 150 days.

The US administration has also launched an investigation into what it calls "unfair" trade policies of 16 leading economies, including India. This may allow the Trump administration to impose new tariffs.

The Indian official comment comes a day after Malaysia walked out of its trade deal with the US, which was signed in October last year.

Malaysia has become the first country to walk out of a US reciprocal tariff deal. Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava said Malaysia's move could encourage several other US trading partners to reconsider similar deals.

Two factors are likely to push more countries to walk away from trade deals signed with the US. First, the deals have lost their economic value after the Supreme Court ruling. Second, trade pressure from the US continues even after agreements are signed.

"For many governments, this combination raises a fundamental question: why maintain politically costly concessions if the same tariff treatment applies without a deal and trade pressure continues anyway?" Srivastava said and added Malaysia's decision may be followed by many other countries.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.- 12032026-270861
CG-DL-E- 12032026-270861
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग- II - खण्ड- 3 - उप खण्ड- (ii)
PART II - Section -3 - Sub section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1222] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, मार्च 11, 2026/फाल्गुन 20, 1947
No.1222] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026/PHALGUNA 20, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 11th March, 2026

S.O. 1279(E), Date: 11.03.2026 - n exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of **NH544E in the stretch of land from Km 103.200 (Ex. Km 103.200) to Km 116.700 (Ex. Km 118.470) of (AP/KNT Border to Sira section) in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA,** hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(II) of section 3C of the said Act.

The Hearing of objections as per National Highway Act 1956 section 3C (1) (2) and (3) will be on 06-04-2026, 11:30 am. Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highway Authority of India, Tumkur Branch, Bettashri Complex, 5th Cross, 60 Ft. Road, Sapthagiri Badavane, Tumkur-572102** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without **structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 103.200 (Ex. Km. 103.200) to Km. 116.700 (Ex. Km 118.470) of (AP/KNT Border to Sira section) of NH 544E in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA.**

STATE: KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: TUMKUR**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Hectare)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Sira					
Village: Madalur					
1	45	Common	Dry/Kharab	0.010117	0.010117
2	494	Common	Dry/Kharab	0.2276325	0.227632
3	500	Private	Dry	0.0075877	0.0075877
4	530	Private	Dry/Garden	0.0025292	0.0025292
Village: Kotta					
5	102/1	Private	Wet	0.0025292	0.0025292
6	103	Private	Wet	0.0025292	0.0025292
7	128	Private	Garden	0.0025292	0.0025292
8	129/2	Private	Wet	0.0025292	0.0025292
9	130	Private	Dry	0.0025292	0.0025292
10	131/1	Private	Dry	0.0050585	0.0050585
11	133	Common	Gomala/Dry/ Kharab	0.040468	0.040468
12	218	Private	Dry	0.030351	0.030351
13	369	Private	Dry	0.0050585	0.0050585
14	370	Private	Dry	0.0025292	0.0025292
15	373	Private	Dry	0.457587	0.457587
16	374	Private	Dry	1	1
17	491	Private	Dry	0.010117	0.010117
18	492	Private	Dry	0.0075877	0.0075877
19	493	Private	Dry	0.0126462	0.0126462
20	5	Private	Garden	0.0025292	0.0025292
21	6	Private	Dry	0.4097385	0.409739
22	66	Private	Garden	0.0025292	0.0025292
23	67	Private	Garden	0.0050585	0.0050585
24	7	Private	Dry	0.0025292	0.0025292
25	70	Private	Garden	0.0025292	0.0025292
26	71	Private	Garden	0.0025292	0.0025292
27	97	Private	Garden	0.0126462	0.0126462
28	99	Private	Garden	0.0050585	0.0050585
Village: Kallukote					
29	193	Private	Dry/Garden	0.0961115	0.0961115
30	195	Private	Dry	0.0075877	0.0075877
Village: Vojukunte					
31	67	Private	NAK/Dry	0.0025292	0.0025292
Village: Koratakere					
32	21/1	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0111	0.0111
33	31/12	Government	BuiltUp area	0.011	0.011
34	33/14	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0149	0.0149
35	34/15/1	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0111	0.0111
36	35/15/2	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0111	0.0111
37	42/25	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0167	0.0167
38	46/29/1	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0178	0.0178
39	64	Private	Dry	0.010117	0.010117
40	77/50	Private	BuiltUp area	0.0056	0.0056
Village: Gollahalli S. I.					
41	16	Private	Dry	0.0278217	0.0278217
42	17/5	Private	Garden	0.020234	0.020234
43	24/1	Private	Dry	0.0025292	0.0025292
44	27/1	Private	Wet	0.1593427	0.159343
45	27/2	Private	Wet	0.0935822	0.0935822
46	27/3	Private	Wet	0.091053	0.091053
				Total	**2.8872717**

[F. No. RW/BNG/KNT/NH-544E/Km.103.20 to Km.118.70/2020/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

States' vote with national resonance

Four states and a Union Territory have entered the run-up to the Assembly elections. Over the past many months, political parties have been readying themselves for the fray. Now, the poll schedule announced by the Election Commission of India has presented them with a challenge – a quick shifting of gears, from preparation to campaign on the ground. Assam, Kerala, and the UT of Puducherry will vote first on April 9, followed by Tamil Nadu on April 23, and West Bengal on April 23 and April 29. The votes will be counted on May 4.

These elections are significant for the stakes they carry for India's larger opposition bloc. The states are distinct in terms of what they signify politically, but together, three of them constitute a credible ideological opposition to the BJP at the Centre. The governments in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal, led by the DMK, the CPM, and the Trinamool Congress, respectively, will have their share of incumbency-driven concerns. But political coalitions in these states have held power for multiple terms, and these alliances will take no chances as they kick off their campaigns for continuance. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK, along with Congress and other allies, will go to the polls on the plank of Dravidian identity and the government's performance record. Its traditional rival, the AIADMK, is allied with the BJP, which is eyeing its big breakthrough in the state. However, the picture is not clear yet, with confusion prevailing about the position of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, the newly-formed outfit led by actor Vijay.

The Assembly polls will test the incumbents; outcomes will also shape a larger, ideological narrative

The Congress-led opposition alliance in Kerala, the UDF, may fancy its chances but will have to navigate the coalition's inherent weaknesses – a lack of discipline, factionalism, and gaps in campaign strategy. In West Bengal, the BJP, which has steadily improved its position and is now the state's primary opposition party, will be engaged in a fierce, high-stakes battle to topple the TMC. But the party faces a formidable opponent in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who will set the tone for a no-holds-barred contest. In Assam in 2021, the difference in vote shares between the BJP and the Congress was not overwhelming. The 2026 results will also count for the polarisation the state has witnessed over five years. It is worth noting that the elections follow the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Their outcomes will also be scrutinised for the impact, if any, of the revision.

Child sexual abuse: The cycle must break

The Karnataka High Court's refusal to quash proceedings against a person over the possession of child pornography reiterates that the mere storage of such material on a mobile phone constitutes a punishable offence. Justice M Nagaprasanna's order draws strength from the landmark Supreme Court judgment in *Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S Harish & Ors.*, which clarified that the possession, consumption, or failure to delete such material constitutes a criminal act. It rightly acknowledges that even silent consumption sustains the market for abuse. The apex court recognised that digital files depicting the abuse of children are records of real crimes and perpetuate the cycle of exploitation. Each act of viewing or storing such material effectively revictimises the child whose suffering has been recorded, ensuring that the trauma never truly ends as long as the images continue to circulate. By consuming such material, the viewer becomes an audience that validates and sustains the crime. Even when no money changes hands, downloads and online traffic signal demand, encouraging further exploitation and the creation of new content. This perverse behaviour represents a grave distortion of empathy and social responsibility. As such, the privacy of a personal device cannot be used as a shield for conduct that derives gratification from the violation of a child. The State, therefore, has a compelling interest to intervene in private habits that contribute to grave societal harm.

The Karnataka HC rightly reaffirms that passively consuming child abuse material perpetuates harm to victims

Globally, most advanced countries treat the possession of child abuse material as a serious criminal offence. Sweden, Canada, and Australia have gone a step further by introducing extraterritorial provisions that allow authorities to prosecute citizens even for offences committed abroad, where laws may be weaker. Most countries have now ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which obligates them to criminalise the possession of such material. However, gaps in legislation and enforcement in some countries continue to create havens where offenders can operate with relative impunity, a troubling reality in an internet era without geographical boundaries.

The courts' message is clear. The law must treat the possession of child abuse material not as a private moral failing, but as participation in a chain of exploitation that begins with the abuse of a vulnerable child. Justice Nagaprasanna's order reinforces the principle that technology cannot dilute accountability. In the digital age, the defence of children demands vigilance from courts, government, and society. Only when possession itself is unequivocally condemned and prosecuted can the demand that fuels such crimes be meaningfully curtailed.

RULES OF OVERSIGHT

The deepfake dilemma: Speed or safety?

India and the UK are quick on content takedowns, but regulating algorithms that shape people's lives requires more

KANADPRIYA BASU AND AMANDA BROCK

Imagine a fake video of a popular actor endorsing a politician goes viral the night before an election. It's a deepfake, completely fabricated, and spreading fast. What happens next depends entirely on where you live. In India, the platform hosting that video has about three hours to take it down. Miss the window, and they lose their legal protection. The law doesn't care how the fake was made or where it came from. It cares that it's still up, still spreading, still doing damage.

In the European Union (EU), regulators, if they were to enforce, would rather go after the AI system that created the fake in the first place, long before it ever had a chance to go viral. The thinking there is that if you build the machine safely, the mess is less likely to happen at all. This difference reveals the contrasting ways major democracies are approaching AI regulation. The EU is regulating the machine. India is regulating the mess it leaves behind.

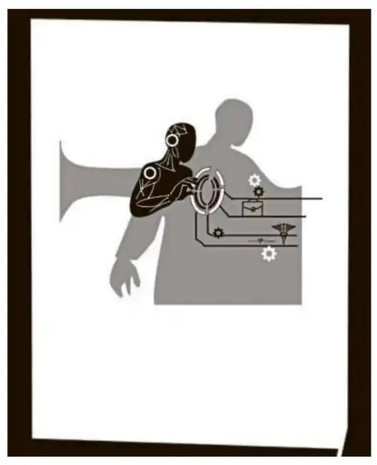
For instance, the EU has passed a sweeping AI act that sorts these systems into risk categories, and the ones higher on this list face more severe regulations than the ones below. Countries such as Belgium are incorporating these safety features into the products *before* they are even shipped by way of regulation.

Deployment of AI in sensitive domains like healthcare, hiring, or credit requires thorough preparation. Despite the implementation of these regulations in the EU, the claims of their having hindered innovation, as per the Daggi Report, have led to a pause in enforcing the Act for the next 12 months.

Neither India nor the UK has adopted an EU-inspired AI statute, trying to cope with the situation by stitching together older rules, regulations, data protection frameworks, and so on. For India, there's a set of AI governance guidelines that lay out seven broad principles, things like "Innovation over Restraint" and "Trust is the Foundation." These are, however, suggestions, not enforceable rules. The UK, in contrast, has asked sectoral regulators in health, finance, and beyond to adapt existing rules where they can so that they can regulate AI where it matters most, while keeping things flexible as technology evolves.

Thus, when AI-generated intimate images started spreading on X without consent, UK authorities applied existing laws criminalising nonconsensual sharing of intimate pictures, forcing X to restrict the content. It worked, and it was fast.

As AI leaders, India and the UK aren't ignoring regulation. They're just making a different bet. And you can see why. For India, with a 1.4-billion population, AI could be genuinely transformative. Getting crop advice to a farmer in Bihar in his own language, or helping a nurse in a rural clinic triage patients faster – and these things matter. Worrying about



whether some foundation model poses a "systemic risk" feels like tomorrow's problem.

Both these countries have closely kept an eye on the EU, where experts and even Big Tech companies are struggling with these rules. Apple and Meta held back AI products in Europe to avoid compliance issues, leaving citizens without access. The idea, therefore, is to find a middle ground: stricter than the US's largely hands-off policy but lighter than the EU's over-precautionary approach, allowing companies to innovate while still being accountable.

Impacting life outcomes

Here's where things get tough. India has taken an aggressive stance on AI-generated deepfakes or misinformation. Platforms are expected to take down flagged material within two to three hours, failing which, they lose their safe-harbour protection and become legally responsible for everything on their servers. That's an enormous liability, and under such pressure, companies rarely investigate; they simply delete the content. The UK balances regulation better, but as Elon Musk discovered, AI-generated content faces more rules than the AI systems themselves. The real problem is that neither country has binding oversight of platforms that control real lives, like loan-screening algorithms or systems that suppress women's voices on LinkedIn. A comedian's satire can vanish in hours, yet opaque scoring systems determining someone's financial future can operate unchecked for years. These priorities seem backwards when algorithms shape life outcomes with zero accountability while surface-level content gets immediate attention.

What does this mean for people on the ground? India has become a high-stress but high-reward place to operate for global companies. Compliance teams have to run nearly real-time takedown systems, label AI features, and tune their filters to match Indian legal standards. One quiet response to all this pressure is what some are calling the "silent switch-off," where platforms are simply disabling their more advanced AI features rather than risk the liability, protecting their interests but leaving consumers with 'weaker' products.

Indian startups feel this strain all the more, struggling to build expensive compliance systems, user logs, takedown workflows, and traceability tools that large companies can absorb, but a ten-person team running on seed funding cannot.

The methods adopted by the UK and India are not necessarily wrong. But when AI systems become embedded in courts, welfare systems, and banks, the current model may not hold. The same governments that want AI to power Viksit Bharat and the AI Opportunities Action Plan in the UK will eventually have to reckon with AI systems making decisions in critical domains, and principles in a guidance document won't be enough when something goes seriously wrong.

The question is whether light-touch regulation can actually work. Open tools and shared standards, like the New Delhi Declaration and the UK's Inspect framework, offer a practical middle ground. But here's the harder truth: deleting deepfakes quickly is easy compared to finding who's responsible when algorithms silently ruin lives. That accountability gap is the real challenge we must solve now.

(Kanadpriya is a business professor at Costello School of Business, George Mason University, the US; Amanda is CEO, OpenUK and OpenHQ, the UK. Moumita Mukherjee, communication strategist, The Institute of Breast Diseases, Kolkata, contributed to this article)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

An emperor cut down to size

Tweaking Chandragupta proved more troublesome than helpful

CHANDER GUPTA

The monikers 'Rajiv' and 'Sanjay' were trending when I was born in 1959 in Kaithal, Haryana. These were the names of the adolescent grandsons of India's then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. My parents, swayed by the popular sentiment, quickly chose the name 'Rajiv' for me. A few years later, my father even christened his newly bought house 'Rajiv *Kutir*' (hut). Though my grandfather disliked this modern name, he kept quiet so as not to dampen the enthusiasm my parents felt at the birth of their first child.

In due course, I was admitted to a primary school by my grandfather, who handled such chores in our household. Seizing the opportunity to finally have his way, he registered my name at the school as Chandragupta, modelled on the famous emperor Chandragupta Maurya of ancient India. My parents, deferential as they were, reconciled themselves to the new name conferred by my grandfather. As I was only five or six years old, I remained oblivious to the transition from Rajiv to Chandragupta. Until I started school, I was familiar only with my nickname 'Titu'.

Throughout the school years, I often faced moments of embarrassment when classmates teased me as Emperor Chandragupta Maurya. Whenever I told someone my name, the mocking question would inevitably follow: "Are you Emperor Chandragupta Maurya?" The teasing became something of an albatross around my neck in school. Fed up, I cleverly split 'Chandragupta' to 'Chander Gupta' while filling out the forms for the matriculation examination. 'Chander' became my first name and 'Gupta' the surname, neatly matching with the family surname.

Disappointingly, the manoeuvre did not yield the desired outcome. Tweaking Chandragupta to Chander Gupta created more confusion without freeing me entirely from the sobriquet 'Maurya'. 'Chander' sounded like half a name. People would variously assume my name to be Chander Shekhar, Chander Prakash, Chander Mohan, or Chander Bhan. Moreover, 'Chander' at that time was often used as a middle name, as in Ram Chander, or Harish Chander, much like 'Kumar'.

The thought that 'Rajiv Gupta' would have resonated much better always haunted me. I often felt disconcerted that my parents were not assertive enough to overrule my grandfather, who formally named me Chandragupta at school. It is rather ironical that we have no say in choosing our names, which are fixed when we are too young to grasp their nuances.

Names that were popular in earlier generations have now fallen out of fashion. My grandfather's name, 'Dalip Chand', or my father's name, 'Lal Chand', would hardly be given to babies today. One rarely comes across names such as Vidya Devi, Shakuntala, or Sulochana for girls or Girdhari Lal, Ishwar Chand, and Dharam Pal for boys anymore.

Perhaps the Shakespearean line, "What's in a name?" offers some solace to those saddled with unpalatable names.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India must focus on alternate energy sources

Rising LPG prices and supply strain have triggered panic advance booking. The Union government's appeal to avoid hoarding is timely – panic only worsens the crisis for genuine users. Strict enforcement is also needed against misuse of domestic cylinders in hotels and restaurants, which reduces availability for families. The police should conduct regular checks with heavy penalties. For a lasting solution, promoting biogas from kitchen waste is a simple, clean alternative that cuts dependence and pollution. Subsidies and awareness can drive adoption. Responsible behaviour, monitoring, and biogas will ease the burden.
Anand Mestru, Kalaburagi

A force for change

Apropos 'Gen Z and regime change' (Mar 16), the recent reports show significant political participation of Gen Z in South Asian countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka. With increasing demand for government transparency and accountability using social media and digital platforms, they are expressing their concerns effectively. While youth activism plays a crucial role, it's also essential to be guided by responsible leadership. The government must engage with citizens and address these concerns with reform-oriented policies and actions.
Ameya Vinod, Bengaluru

Ensure sustainability

I refer to 'Good call to revisit data centre policy' (Mar 16). Bengaluru's water crisis is not a distant warning – it is a present reality, and adding water-intensive data centres to an already strained system would be poor planning by any measure. The suggestion to relocate such facilities to coastal districts is practical and worth pursuing seriously. Coastal Karnataka offers better water availability, proximity to subsea cable landing stations, and room for large-footprint infrastructure. The state government should move beyond policy review and establish clear location guidelines with enforceable environmental benchmarks.
M Barathi, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Initially, we were six short, and the NDA was three short. But even then, we chose to fight instead of bowing down to them. We will always fight against their ideology. But if some people hadn't betrayed us, our victory (in the Rajya Sabha polls) would have been certain today...

Tejashwi Yadav, Bihar LoP and RJD leader

Yeah, well, if ifs and buts were candy and nuts, then we'd never go hungry.

Sherrilyn Kenyon

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

War jolts EU's autonomy push

Compliance with the US line is testing the bloc's economy and plans for an independent geopolitical order

K M RAKESH

The United States-Israel war on Iran has dampened the European Union's ambitious plan for a rules-based geopolitical order not hinged on Washington and its interests. All that zest and determination to carve out a new European identity, away from the domineering American establishment under Donald Trump that dangled the sword of tariffs, is gasping for air.

The chutzpah the EU displayed after Trump declared his intention to take over Greenland, the autonomous territory within Denmark, now appears to be a thing of the past. Few would even remember how Trump's brazen plan infuriated the whole of Europe, leading experts to believe that it would power the region to find its own destiny delinked from that of Washington's.

But no sooner had American and Israeli armed forces begun raining missiles on Iran – for reasons as varied as regime change and a direct threat to the US, not just Israel – than most European leaders hesitantly expressed support for the war, although they were careful not to get dragged into the fight.

Barring Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who became an icon of resistance by decrying the hugely disruptive war on Iran, European leaders chose to adopt "defensive" positions as the latest war in West Asia rages on with no clear exit plan.

Sanchez is the lone man standing against Trump, braving threats of a full trade embargo.

On the contrary, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he was on the same page with Trump on the need to get rid of the "terrible regime" in Iran, but later clarified that Germany had "no interest in an endless war."

On a visit to the White House soon after the US-Israel combine launched their attack on Iran, Merz was a mute spectator seated next to Trump, as the American president went on a tirade against Sanchez.

Faced with a barrage of criticism for his silence, Merz clarified that he chose not to aggravate the situation by making any comments. He perhaps remembered how Trump and his vice president, J D Vance, berated Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a televised Oval Office showdown a year ago.

Spain's Deputy Prime Minister, Yolanda Diaz, was scathing in slamming EU leaders for letting Trump trample all over it. "What Europe needs today is leadership, not vassals who pay homage to Trump," she told *POLITICO*. She cited Article 1 of the United Nations Charter to term it an illegitimate war and reminded EU leaders to talk clearly in defence of international law.

France and Britain are the other big European powers that made it clear they would have no "offensive" role, although their armed forces were placed on alert to protect their boundaries and interests, especially after Iran targeted a British Royal Air Force base in Cyprus.

European leaders, except Sanchez, fell short of strongly reacting to a war they neither anticipated nor prepared for. As patience wears thin in the region, they know what is good for Israel is not good for even America, let alone Europe.

The economic fallout

For a region struggling with underperforming economies and massive unemployment, the timing of the war couldn't have been worse. The euphoria over the India-EU "mother of all trade deals" had not even died down when the missiles targeted Iran, killing its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and much of its top leadership.

The escalation of the offensive has since affected the Gulf states and blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping channel for energy security and trade, even for Europe.

Munich-based Ifo Institute, an independent economic research centre, has forecast that war-driven energy price hikes would badly affect the recovery of Germany, the region's biggest economy. Experts warn of a similar impact in the entire region.

With Iran located approximately 2,000 km from the nearest European borders in Bulgaria or Greece, the EU is aware that the region is not entirely immune to the ongoing war. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran pushed natural gas prices by 40% as supplies of Liquefied Natural Gas from Qatar stopped.

The European Union Agency for Asylum has warned of a humanitarian crisis worse than the 2015 influx of a million Syrian refugees. European leaders fear that another round of refugee influx could enhance the support base for far-right parties that are already a huge concern.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Berlin)

Street vending deregulation: Balancing livelihoods with public health

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

The Union Health Ministry's recent decision to significantly reduce the compliance burden on street food vendors and allow them to focus on their livelihoods is welcome. By removing redundant bureaucratic hurdles, official policy is moving towards a system that respects the entrepreneurial spirit of millions while maintaining a firm grip on safety. Street food remains the heartbeat of urban India, offering culinary experiences that stretch from the temple towns of the south to the high-rise corridors of the north. For decades, however, these micro-entrepreneurs have operated in a stifling regulatory environment, forced to navigate a complex web of certifications while living in constant fear of arbitrary renewal drives.

The most transformative element of this policy shift is the introduction of "deemed registration" for the informal sector. By allowing a municipal or town vending committee (TVC) certificate to double as registration under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the State has effectively acknowledged the absurdity of dual compliance. This move does more than save time; it validates the vendor's legal right to operate in the eyes of multiple departments simultaneously. By streamlining this process, we are finally moving away from a culture of policing and toward one where street vendors are recognised as legitimate partners in the national economy.

To further support this shift, the government has overhauled the financial thresholds that define a "small" business. Increasing the registration limit to Rs 1.5 crore is a pragmatic admission that many family-run stalls and food trucks handle significant volumes without having the administrative capacity of a corporate restaurant. Furthermore, by making these FSSAI licences valid for life, the state has removed a major source of corruption and anxiety. Vendors are no longer tethered to a cycle of renewals that often required "facilitation fees" or resulted in unnecessary service interruptions. Instead, they can focus on their craft, freed from the logistical burden of tracking expiry dates and repeated interactions with licensing authorities.

The removal of traditional gatekeeping shifts the burden of proof to "post-market surveillance" through a technology-enabled, risk-based inspection system. Rather than checking every stall randomly, authorities will now use data to target high-risk commodities like meat and dairy, while rewarding compliant businesses with fewer interruptions. This shift treats regulation as a surgical tool rather than a blunt instrument, ensuring that safety resources are deployed where the actual risk to the consumer is highest. It represents a move away from the "guilty until proven innocent" approach that has traditionally characterised small-business inspections.

In this decentralised landscape, TVCs have evolved into crucial frontline mentors. Since they include representatives from the vendor community, the system fosters a sense of peer-to-peer accountability that top-down inspections never could. This local empowerment is a double-edged sword: it offers vendors a voice, but it also means that the failure of a few can tarnish the reputation of many. A vendor who ignores basic hygiene now risks losing their municipal certificate, which carries the immediate consequence of revoking their deemed food safety status. It is a system that replaces the fear of the inspector with a tangible responsibility to the community.

The true driver of this cultural change is the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) initiative. Education is being prioritised over punishment through large-scale training sessions that teach the essential "Five Keys to Safer Food". By focusing on potable water, waste management, and temperature control, the state is addressing the root causes of foodborne illness rather than just penalising the symptoms. A trained and informed vendor is fundamentally more reliable than one motivated solely by the fear of fines, creating a more resilient public health system in the long run.

In many developed nations, street food is strictly regulated through a system of risk-based permits and public transparency. In cities like New York and London, vendors are often required to prepare high-risk ingredients in off-site commercial kitchens before final assembly at the stall. Furthermore, mandatory "letter grading" systems are displayed prominently, allowing the market to reward hygiene. This infrastructure-heavy approach ensures that quality is supported by access to municipal water hooks and professional-grade refrigeration. Singapore offers a different gold standard by transitioning from scattered stalls into permanent, utility-integrated hawker centres. Quality is assured through continuous monitoring where a vendor's long-term safety record determines their grade. By providing clean water, electricity, and waste disposal at the site, the state eliminates the most common sources of contamination. This model suggests that while "smart oversight" is essential, providing basic infrastructure is the most effective way to guarantee public health without stifling the entrepreneurial spirit of the vendor.

Ultimately, these reforms represent a profound renewal of the social contract between the state, the vendor, and the urban consumer. By simplifying the path to FSSAI compliance, official policy encourages thousands of vendors to join the formal sector, making them eligible for financial support like PM SVANidhi loans. This visibility also empowers the consumer, who can now rely on digital feedback loops and QR-code transparency to make informed choices.

Hopefully, replacing endless forms with smart oversight can pave the way for a system that benefits both the vendors and the consumers alike.

(The author is an independent writer)

Bangladesh is taking steps to conserve electricity, which its factories need to keep stitching together the world's clothing

SAIF HASNAT AND ALEX TRAVELLI

Garment workers inside a factory in Bangladesh. About half of Bangladesh's electricity comes from power-generation facilities that burn gas. Nearly a third of that gas comes from Qatar, and the warfare in the Gulf has all but blocked its flow. NYT

The war is making it harder to keep lights on in Bangladesh

The final Ramadan holidays started early for university students in Bangladesh, on March 9, but for all the wrong reasons. The country's main schools announced that classes were cancelled, effective immediately, until later this month. The government shut the campuses to save electricity—a drastic response to the global energy crunch caused by the war in the Persian Gulf.

"It doesn't feel like a vacation to me," said Abdullah Al Mahmud Mehedi, 23, who has been studying for a master's degree in social sciences at the University of Dhaka.

Like other countries, Bangladesh is worried about its supply of crude oil and natural gas. Access to the gas is of particular concern. About half of Bangladesh's electricity comes from power-generation facilities that burn gas. Nearly a third of that gas comes from Qatar, and the warfare in the Gulf has all but blocked its flow.

In addition to closing the universities, the government has started imposing temporary blackouts and other measures to conserve power. If the gas runs out, so does the electricity that turns on the lights and powers the factories that are crucial to Bangladesh's export-oriented economy.

All this is against the backdrop of Bangladesh's delicate political condition. The country voted in a new government just a month ago, the first to be elected since the reign of Sheikh Hasina collapsed in August 2024. Tarique Rahman, the new prime minister, took office in February declaring that his victory "belongs to democracy" but warning that the country "begins our journey" with a fragile economy.

Hasina was toppled, after 15 years in power, by a student-led movement that harnessed a deep sense of outrage over a financial crisis. Bangladesh's economic model combines a reliance on making garments — nearly 85% of its exports — with the import of fuel and other essential goods.

That model exposes Bangladesh to forces beyond its borders. When Russia invaded Ukraine, disrupting trade and driving up the price of food and oil, Bangladesh's economy wobbled. The country's garment industry survived that crisis and the political chaos that followed, just as it had remade itself after a factory collapsed in 2013, killing 1,134 workers and scaring off foreign buyers.

Now the resilience of Bangladesh's factories faces another test.

Mohiuddin Rubel, the former director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association who runs several factories of his own, blamed the country's penchant for single-mindedness for its vulnerability.

"Bangladeshis are very good at doing one thing, like ready-made garments," he said. "We are not diversified." And the same goes for its power grid, which makes far too little use of renewable energy, in his view.

Shafiqul Alam, an analyst at Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis in Dhaka, said he was worried about the imminent shortage of gas and the need to keep factories humming.

Bangladesh already uses what is called load shedding, or planned blackouts, usually a couple of hours long, to reduce the strain on overburdened power stations. They are the scourge of modern factories, which cannot afford to idle thousands of workers. Most keep enormous diesel-powered generators ready to cover gaps in supply. These generators are an expensive substitute for gas-fired thermal stations, but Bangladesh does have alternative sources for diesel, including Singapore and Malaysia. Another worry is the summer heat, which comes early to Bangladesh. The government might have to begin load shedding by April, when peak demand is expected to exceed 18,000 megawatts, Alam said. "But they must plan it properly so that the industrial sector is not negatively affected," he added.

The way to do that, Alam said, is for Bangladeshis to conserve electricity at home. Households consume twice as much as all the factories combined. "The government needs to raise public awareness without causing panic," he said. For instance, it could point out how much money an air-conditioned home could save by switching the thermostat to 77 degrees Fahrenheit from 75.

There may be a diplomatic opportunity hidden in the crisis. Relations between Bangladesh and India have been rocky since 2024, when Hasina took refuge in New Delhi. But Aninda Islam Amit, an official in Bangladesh's energy ministry, said, "On average, 15,000 tons of diesel are expected to arrive from India each month." And, Amit said, "standing by a neighbour during a crisis is a matter of courtesy."

The Dhaka Export Processing Zone, established in 1993, is an example of the high priority Bangladesh has put on its garment industry. The sewing machines inside would be the last to suffer from a blackout. But Rubel knows that many Bangladeshis, are painfully exposed to shortages.

The New York Times

Surge in oil prices shakes Pakistan's already fragile economy

Pakistan imports more than 85% of its crude oil from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates by way of a single maritime route snaking through the Strait of Hormuz. The escalating conflict in the region has blocked that route and shocked Pakistan's already fragile economy.

Farmers in Pakistan say they will struggle to afford rising fuel prices before the harvest season. Some schools will move online Monday, but nearly half of the country's 250 million people are poor, by the World Bank's estimate, and many children go without a laptop, a tablet or a decent internet connection. And before Eid al-Fitr, many families are cancelling trips to their hometowns, clouding what is usually a festive period commemorating the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

"Pakistan is already bankrupt and surviving loan by loan," said Kaiser Bengali, a Pakistani economist, referring to the loans that the South Asian nation has received from the International Monetary Fund.

Surging energy costs have choked the economies of megacities and rural areas across South Asia. In India, some restaurants have removed slow-simmered dishes from their menus to limit the consumption of cooking gas. In Bangladesh, universities have closed to conserve electricity and reduce transportation needs. In Nepal, the government plans to ration cooking gas. Pakistan has been hit especially hard. Nearly all its fuel arrives through the Strait of Hormuz, a route that is now being strangled by Iran. At least 16 ships, including oil tankers and commercial vessels, have been attacked in the Persian Gulf since late February. Tanker traffic has slowed, forcing ships to remain docked in the port city of Karachi, Pakistan's economic hub and a stopping point for many of those tankers.

With its supplies cut off, the Pakistani government raised fuel prices March 6 by 20% in an effort to stop hoarding — one of the world's highest increases since the beginning of the US-Israeli war in Iran.

With its economy hurting, Pakistan has also walked a fine diplomatic line. It has tried to strengthen ties with the Trump administration and has not condemned the United States for its strikes on Iran. Its economy is heavily reliant on the Arab states in the Persian Gulf for oil and natural gas, as well as remittances from overseas workers. But Iran is its neighbour, and about 15% to 20% of Pakistan's population shares Iran's Shiite faith. **NYT**

Who guards the forests?

B K SINGH

On December 12, 1996, the Supreme Court of India, acting on a petition from T N Godavarman Thirumulpad highlighting several violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, delivered a landmark judgment expanding the Act's applicability to all forests regardless of ownership, classification or notification. Prior to this judgment, the Act applied only to notified forests, excluding even the areas leased before the law came into force on October 25, 1980. It was also interpreted as inapplicable to the renewal of leases after the Act came into existence.

Following *Godavarman*, the Supreme Court began receiving numerous interlocutory applications from across the country. To deal with these matters, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) was constituted in 2002 and was widely seen as an extension of the Court. In its early years, the CEC was run largely by serving officers, and its recommendations were generally accepted by the Court. In recent years, however, activists have questioned its functioning in several cases. A few examples illustrate the concerns.

Kodagu, a hilly district in Karnataka's Western Ghats, has only about 42% of its 4,150 sq km geographical area recorded as notified forest. Yet many other land tenures in the district also had substantial forest cover, with rights over them vested in the revenue department. Tree felling on private lands is governed by the Karnataka (Preservation) of Trees Act and regulated by the Forest Department.

From the 1980s onwards, rosewood, teak and other valuable species were cut and transported from various land tenures, including notified forests. Timber from forest lands was often diverted using permits issued for private holdings. Timber merchants made Kodagu their base and continued plundering trees with the connivance of sections of the bureaucracy.

When the Supreme Court's 1996 order extended the Forest (Conservation) Act to wooded private lands, some officials sought a workaround by advising the Karnataka government to allow tree cutting in coffee estates in the name of shade regulation.

The Court had clarified that only trees artificially planted by coffee growers could be cut, and naturally growing trees should not be harmed. But old practices persisted. In 2004, the head of the Forest Department reiterated the Court directive and prohibited further permissions for tree felling. However, in 2007-08 thousands of trees on steep slopes in relatively undisturbed areas were permitted to be cut. Around the same time, authorities failed to prevent a road being carved through the forest, using heavy machinery to create a shorter route between Madikeri and Subramanya.

Following complaints from activists, members of the CEC visited the sites in early 2009 and held the officers responsible for violating the Supreme Court directives in *Godavarman* and for acting in contravention of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, the CEC submitted its report to the SC only in 2012. The Court took another four years to refer the matter to the National Green Tribunal (NGT). In 2022, the NGT constituted a committee, but no action followed. The guilty officers have since retired.

Such cases raise the question: Why do we need the CEC if blatant violations go unpunished? Administrative inaction has emboldened successor officers, while ecological damage manifests in the form of floods, landslides, and drought across Kodagu and the Western Ghats.

The Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan presents another example. Until a few years ago, more than 100 mines were operational around it because about 54,835 ha area of its 881 sq km critical tiger habitat had not been mutated in favour of the Forest Department. Under pressure from mining lobby, proposals emerged to redraw the boundary of the reserve to exclude mineral-rich areas. The CEC, which functioned as an extension of the Supreme Court until recently, visited Sariska in March and April 2024 to examine issues related to vehicular traffic carrying pilgrims to Pandupole Hanuman temple within the critical tiger habitat.

Among its recommendations was the rationalisation of habitat boundary by the end of 2024. The proposal was swiftly approved by the Rajasthan State Wildlife Board on June 23, 2024, the National Tiger Conservation Authority two days later and the National Board for Wildlife the next day. The revised notification excluded 42 sq km of mineral-rich area from the critical habitat and added 43 sq km of forest on the northern boundary to compensate. While hearing the matter on September 18, 2025, an SC bench led by CJI B R Gavai criticised the haste with which such an important issue—given the ecological significance of tigers—had been decided, and sent the matter back to the state for reconsideration. Once the boundary of any CTH is redrawn, it opens the floodgates for similar proposals elsewhere.

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority was also recently slammed by an SC bench, which found that retired bureaucrats heading it were not serving the public interest and even suggested winding it up. The CEC too has ex-bureaucrats who have not effectively fought for conservation. With the NGT already handling environmental issues, the CEC appears to duplicate institutional functions and should be wound up.

(The writer is a former head of Forest Force, Karnataka)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Wilson resigns, Labour to elect new leader

London, March 16
Prime Minister Harold Wilson resigned his office today, only four days after he secured a parliamentary vote of confidence. His resignation is to take effect after the Labour Party elects a new leader to succeed him. Mr. Wilson has been Prime Minister for a total of about seven and half years. The present Government is the fourth he has led. He first became Prime Minister in 1964. Since returning to power in February 1974, Mr. Wilson has been battling with Britain's severe economic problems.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

Govt orders judicial probe into scam

New Delhi, March 16
In a major bid to contain the political damage to the NDA coalition government caused by the sensational revelation of alleged kickbacks in the defence deals, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee tonight announced a judicial inquiry into the *Tehelka* exposure.
This was decided by the Union Cabinet this evening which was held after a coordination committee meeting of the NDA that reposed faith in its Convenor George Fernandes who resigned as Defence Minister on Thursday.

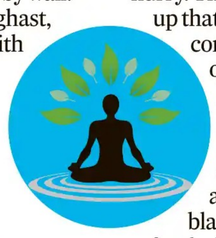
OASIS | MEERA SESHADRI

Confidence illuminates itself

Sometime ago, a study by a seasoned psychologist was doing rounds on social media platforms. The psychologist had got together three men, all exuding confidence, to gregariously interact with a gaggle of enterprising audience members. The chosen three had to continuously talk for some considerable time on captivating topics and capture the listeners' interest.

It is no surprise; within seconds, the trio had set the stage on fire with their superlative communicative skills, thereby seizing the audience's focus. Next, the psychologist summoned the three aside and started drawing something on their faces, which simulated the sight of an unsightly scar. Then, he requested them to see their reflection in a mirror, resting on a nearby wall. Apparently, all three were aghast, looking at their awful face with an alarming scar.

Now, the psychologist, pulling them aside, proclaimed he'd make the unpleasant scars more pronounced by potent strokes, further petrifying already perplexed men in the process. Later, he shepherded them on stage to speak again on sundry topics.



The first fellow, who had spoken with a feisty spirit, suddenly found himself fatuously faltering before finally finishing off his speech in a frenetic hurry. The second one was so clammed up that his words had failed to carry conviction, with a complete lack of coherence. The third, who had delivered impressive discourse earlier, was now in dreadful, diffident mode amid a downright distracted audience. Apparently, all three blamed the 'inattentive audience' for their inarticulate talk. The psychologist again urged them to peer into the mirror. When they did so, they saw there was no trace of the scar at all.

When the astute psychologist had stated he would further accentuate the scars, he had, in actuality, wiped them off. He then explained the extreme confidence the three had exhibited earlier had got extinguished, not due to a distant audience. But, due to them not being confident, they obsess over their scars.

We often hear people say they aren't taken seriously by others. The truth is that these folks are seldom confident/serious about themselves. Evidently, if one has confidence, it does get exhibited sans extra efforts. And, once people sense that sort of confidence in them, surely they treat them with all seriousness.

TRANSIT TROUBLE: Currently, 22 Indian-flagged vessels are stranded in western Persian Gulf

Indian LPG tanker Shivalik reaches Gujarat port

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Shivalik, an India-flagged LPG tanker belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India, docked at Gujarat's Mundra Port on Monday after safely transiting the Strait of Hormuz, while another vessel carrying LPG, the Nanda Devi, was expected to reach the Kandla port on Tuesday morning.

The authorities concerned arranged for advance paperwork and priority berthing to enable faster discharge of cargo of these vessels, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Special Secretary Rajesh Kumar Sinha told reporters here on Monday.

These two vessels started their journey on March 13 and crossed the Strait of Hormuz early on March 14, carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG — equivalent to a day's requirement of cooking gas in the country.

According to officials, 20,000 MT of LPG from the Shivalik would be unloaded at Mundra Port, and 26,000 MT at Mangaluru.

Meanwhile, an Indian-flagged crude oil tanker that sailed safely from the UAE's Fujairah port despite an attack on the terminal is scheduled to reach India on Tuesday. The vessel, the Jag Laadki, carries about 80,800 tonnes of Murban crude from the UAE.

Delhi was in constant touch with the Gulf-region countries to ensure the safe passage of the remaining Indian-flagged vessels in the region, he said.

Currently, 22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers remain stranded in the western Persian Gulf.

Since activation of the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) Control Room, over 3,000 calls and 5,400 emails from seafarers, families, and maritime stakeholders have been handled, while 286 Indian seafarers — including 33 in the past 48 hours — have been safely repatriated, said Sinha.

Major ports are closely monitoring vessel movements and facilitating cargo operations, offering concessions on anchorage, berth hire, storage charges, and temporary trans-shipment storage at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), which had also granted rebates on reefer container plug-in charges, he said.

Export-bound containers at JNPA had fallen from 5,600 to 3,900, with no reported congestion, he noted, adding that an inter-ministerial group under DG Shipping continued to coordinate with Customs, ports, and other stakeholders to ensure the safety and welfare of Indian seafarers while maintaining continuity of maritime trade.

India imports about 88% of its crude oil, 50% of its natural gas, and 60% of its LPG needs.

Before the February 28 US-Israel strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation, more than half of India's crude imports, about 30% of gas and 85-90% of LPG imports came from West Asian countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

LPG tanker Shivalik arrives at Mundra Port after safely crossing the Strait of Hormuz amid regional tensions, in Gujarat, on Monday. PTI

Mamata hits streets, slams Centre over LPG crisis

TRINAMOOL RALLY

- Bengal CM leads rally against LPG shortage
- Accuses BJP of creating artificial scarcity
- Urges voters to boycott saffron party in polls

KOLKATA, DHNS: A day after the Election Commission announced the poll schedule in West Bengal, Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee hit the streets on Monday, accusing the BJP-led central government of artificially creating an LPG crisis and raising the prices of domestic and commercial cooking gas.

"The LPG crisis has been artificially created by disabling oil company servers," Mamata said about fears of a cooking gas shortage. "I have spoken with their representatives, and there is no real crisis of gas," she added, after leading a rally of TMC supporters.

She also urged the people to boycott the BJP and said that the TMC would secure a landslide victory in the polls.

'Motivated, biased': India trashes US panel report on RSS

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Monday categorically rejected a report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that called for linking Washington's security assistance and bilateral trade to improvements in New Delhi's record in religious freedom.

In its report, the USCIRF criticised India for what it called increasing cases of alleged violations of religious freedom and recommended "targeted sanctions" on individuals and entities such as the RSS and Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), holding them responsible for the situation.

The USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan US federal government agency that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion.

The MEA, trashing the report, said the USCIRF has persisted in presenting a "distorted and selective" picture of India, relying on "questionable sources and ideological narratives" rather than objective facts.

"We have taken note of the latest report of the USCIRF. We categorically reject its motivated and biased characterisation of India," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"For several years now, USCIRF has persisted in presenting a distorted and selective picture of India, relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives rather than objective facts," he said.

No talks with US on warship deployment in Hormuz: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Monday said it hasn't engaged in bilateral talks with the US to ensure safe transit of merchant vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.

The remarks by the Ministry of External Affairs came against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump calling on several countries to send warships to keep the strategically key shipping route open.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman that handles roughly 20% of global oil and LNG.

In a social media post, Trump hoped that China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK and other countries affected by Iran's attempted closure of the Strait of Hormuz, will send warships to the region to keep the shipping route "safe and open".

There has not been any concrete response from the leading countries.

"We are aware of this particular matter being discussed by several countries. We have not yet discussed it in a bilateral setting," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The spokesperson's remarks came in response to a question on whether the US had approached India to send its warships to the region.

India will continue its discussions with several stakeholders on this matter, Jaiswal said.

India rejects oil tanker swap with Iran for Hormuz access

The government on Monday trashed reports that said Tehran is seeking release of three oil tankers seized by India in return for ensuring safe passage to Indian-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.

This report is baseless, top sources in the government said, adding there has been no discussion of this nature between Indian and Iranian authorities. In any case, the three vessels are not Iranian-owned, sources said.

India's coastal authorities reportedly seized three US-sanctioned oil tankers with alleged links to Iran.

Blanket arrangement

In an interview to the *Financial Times*, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India does not have a "blanket arrangement" with Iran for Indian-flagged ships to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

At the same time, Jaishankar said talks with Tehran on the safe passage of Indian vessels were "ongoing" and "yielding results".

In his remarks, Jaiswal reiterated India's call for de-escalation of the situation in West Asia.

"We have and we continue to call for de-escalation, for exercise of restraint and for countries to adopt the path of dialogue and diplomacy so that there can be an early end to this conflict. We have also said that sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected," he said.

8 Oppn MPs' suspension to be revoked today

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The suspension of eight Opposition MPs from the Lok Sabha will be revoked on Tuesday, after a consensus was reached between the Opposition and treasury benches on the smooth running of the House for the remainder of the ongoing Budget session.

A resolution for revoking the suspension is likely to be moved at noon on Tuesday in the Lok Sabha, said sources after a meeting of floor leaders convened by Speaker Om Birla on Monday.

Eight MPs—Congress's Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole, and Dean Kuriakose, and the CPM's S Venkatesan—were suspended on February 3 for the entire duration of the session for unruly behaviour

The Budget session of Parliament ends on April 2.

Use of banners

Sources say it was agreed in Monday's meeting that the Opposition would refrain from using banners, especially AI-generated ones, for staging protests inside the House.

After the meeting, the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a bulletin reminding MPs of the maintenance of decorum within the Parliament Estate, said sources.

The bulletin mentioned Direction 124A(2)(iii) of the Directions by the Speaker, which prohibits certain activities within the Parliament House Estate to keep the area and passages free and accessible for MPs.

The bulletin also highlighted that the direction specifically prohibited the carrying of firearms, banners, placards, sticks, spears, swords, and brickbats within the Parliament Estate.

MPs have also been repeatedly advised not to bring or display posters, placards, or banners inside Parliament.

10 patients killed, 11 staffers injured in fire at Cuttack hospital ICU

BHUBANESWAR, PTI

At least 10 patients were killed after a major fire broke out in an ICU in the Odisha government-run SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack early on Monday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said.

He said that around 11 hospital staff members suffered burn injuries while rescuing patients to safety.

The CM has formed a six-member fact-finding team to investigate the cause of the fire. The fire broke out between 2:30 am and 3 am.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of patients and announced that an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased.

The CM also announced Rs 25 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of each deceased person.

Noting that there were 23 patients at the Trauma Care ICU and an adjacent ICU and ward, the CM said seven patients died in the fire, while three others succumbed to burns or suffocation during evacuation.

According to an eyewitness, the power supply was cut twice, and then the fire broke out, and the entire ICU was filled with thick smoke.

"Relatives and attendants of patients had joined hands with the medical staffers to rescue the patients," the eyewitness said.

Hope turns to horror

For the families outside the ICU, the tragedy unfolded not through official updates but through desperate searching, unanswered questions, and the unbearable discovery of their loved ones' deaths.

"My brother was on ventilator support, but he was recovering. Doctors had informed me that he would be brought out of ventilation in one or two days. But, today, when I was searching for him following the fire incident, I found his body lying on a stretcher in the medicine department," the younger brother of Ramesh Chandra Parida, who died in the incident, said.

Krushna Ballav Das of Balasore had admitted his 27-year-old son to the trauma care unit after a road accident that left him with a head injury on Sunday.

"He was doing well... He was recovering. When I woke up and heard about the fire, I rushed to the hospital, where a staffer told me that my son had died," Das said, weeping.

Major HOSPITAL FIRE TRAGEDIES in India

AMRI Hospital, Kolkata (Dec 9, 2011)
More than 90 people, mostly patients, died after toxic fumes spread when a fire broke out in the basement of the seven-storey AMRI Hospital annexe in the early hours.

Dreams Mall, Mumbai (March 25–26, 2021)
A blaze at Dreams Mall, which housed a Covid-designated hospital, **raged for over 40 hours and killed nine people**, including patients on ventilator support.

Vijay Vallabh Hospital, Virar (April 23, 2021)
Fifteen Covid-19 patients died after a fire broke out in the ICU of Vijay Vallabh Hospital in Virar, Maharashtra's Palghar district.

Patel Welfare Hospital, Bharuch (May 1, 2021)
18 people, including 16 Covid-19 patients and two trainee nurses, died in an early-morning fire at the Patel Welfare Hospital in Gujarat's Bharuch.

Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, Jhansi (Nov 15, 2024)
At least 10 infants died after a blaze, possibly due to an electrical short circuit, engulfed the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi.

SMS Hospital, Jaipur (Oct 6, 2025)
Six patients on critical care support died when a massive fire swept through the neuro Intensive Care Unit of the state-run Sawai Man Singh Hospital.

Ladakh shuts down as agitation continues over statehood

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A shutdown called by Ladakh's political leadership brought markets to a standstill in Leh and Kargil on Monday, with thousands joining protest marches despite the recent release of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, highlighting that the region's agitation over constitutional safeguards remains unresolved.

The shutdown was jointly called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), umbrella bodies representing political, social and religious organisations in the two districts.

The two groups have been engaged in dialogue with the Union government through a 15-member High Powered Committee set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss Ladakh's political and administrative demands.

Markets remained closed across Leh and Kargil as protesters carrying banners and placards marched through the main market areas demanding statehood for Ladakh and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Residents of remote areas, including Zanskar, also joined the strike call.

Leaders of the two groups said the protests reflected growing frustration after several rounds of talks with the Centre failed to produce a breakthrough.

Chering Dorje Lakrook, a senior member associated with movement, earlier said the Centre had not addressed Ladakh's core demands, noting that "the two main demands—Sixth Schedule and statehood—have been rejected without giving any logical reasons."

Karwar gets test facility for Kalvari-class submarines

NEW DELHI, PTI: A first-of-its-kind facility that will enable testing, maintenance and servicing of critical pneumatic systems installed on Kalvari-class submarines has been commissioned at a technical workshop in Karnataka's Karwar, officials said on Monday.

Vice Admiral B Sivakumar, the Chief of Materiel (COM), Indian Navy, commissioned the "pneumatic RAM test facility" at Naval Group India Workshop at Karwar, according to an official statement.

The facility marks a "key milestone" in strengthening India's indigenous capabilities for the maintenance and sustenance of the Kalvari-class submarines of the Indian Navy.

"Until now, these pneumatic RAMs were required to be sent to France for testing and servicing, resulting in longer turnaround timelines and higher logistical costs," it said.

The new facility, commissioned on March 13, will "enable testing, maintenance and servicing of critical pneumatic systems installed on Kalvari-class submarines, thereby enhancing the efficiency and reliability of maintenance operations," it said.

This maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility is only available in France, Brazil, and India, it said.

The facility has been developed and manufactured in collaboration with an Indian MSME partner, SEC Industries.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675, Fax : 08472 / 260776, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/TS-01/KKRDB MACRO/01/2025-26 Date: 16-03-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: 1. Improvements of Kotnoor (D) GDA Garden in Kalaburagi City. Rehabilition and Restoration of UGD in Zone-2 in Kalaburagi City. 2. Development of Maheboob Gulshan Garden in Kalaburagi City. 3. End toend paving at Shahbazar Naka to Aland check post and Janata Bazar Circle to Humnabad base (Super market area) (Continuation work of NCAP 2024-25), 4. Development of Rajiv Gandhi Theme park at Dariyapur in Kalaburagi City., 2) Head of Account: **2024-25 KKRDB MACRO & 2024-25 NCAP,** 3) Tender Amount: **1) 1,00,00,000.00, 2) 3,00,00,000.00, 3) 5,00,00,000.00, 4) 3,00,00,000.00,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: Class IV, II & Above, 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: **30.03.2026, 11:00am** 6) Last Date for Bid Submission: **16.04.2026 Upto 4:30pm**, 7) Tender opening Date: **17.04.2026 Upto 4:35pm,** 8) Tender Financial Bid opening Date: **18.04.2026 Upto 11.30am,** 9) Cost of Tender Schedule: 1. Tender Fee As Per e-portal EMD Max Rs. 2,00,000.00, 2. Tender Fee: As Per e-portal EMD Max Rs. 4,50,000.00, 3. Tender Fee As Per e-portal EMD Max Rs. 7,50,000.00, 4. Tender Fee As Per e-portal EMD Max Rs. 4,50,000.00, 10) Contact Address & Mobile No: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 9620341599, 11) Web Site: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1182/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಕಚೇರಿ
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್(kppp) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ..... ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17/03/2026

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (KPWD/ಇತರೆ) ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ Work ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕ-ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ-ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (kppp) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ / ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17/03/2026** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

Sl. No	Indent No	Amount put to Tender in Lakhs	EMD in RS	Work Excution period	Work Excution period
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54886	33.68	67,360	03	Others
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56144	29.70	59,400	03	Others
3	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT54923/CALL-2	28.65	28,650	05	CAT-1
4	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT37827/CALL-4	43.90	87,800	03	Others
5	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55087	100.00	1,00,000	05	CAT-II(A)
6	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55084	50.00	1,00,000	03	Others
7	DMA/2025-26/DA/WORK_INDENT56141	293.00	4,39,500	06	Others
8	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT31334/CALL-3	98.80	83,470	06	Others

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 01 ರಿಂದ 03 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-03-2026 ರಂದು 16.30.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-03-2026 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 16.35.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ,** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ :30-03-2026** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-03-2026 ರಂದು 16.00.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ,** ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-03-2026 ರಂದು 11.00.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ಸರ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕಂಬಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 04 ರಿಂದ 08 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-04-2026 ರಂದು 16.30.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-04-2026 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 16.35.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ,** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ :08-04-2026** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-03-2026ರಂದು 16.00.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ,** ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-03-2026 ರಂದು 11.00.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ಸರ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕಂಬಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1358/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿ/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
No.No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/26/2025-26 Date:16.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites the tender from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Other details may be seen in the bid document.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender Rs.in lakhs (Excluding GST)	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Contract
1	Bio-Enzyme based Odour Suppression and Basic infrastructure development works around MSGP processing plants in Doddaballapura Constituency	**800.21**	8,00,211.00	11 Months

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries : **20.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs.** in KPP Portal (2) Pre bid meeting : **23.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore (3) Last date for submission of the bids : **06.04.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs** (4) Date of opening of Technical bids on : **07.04.2026 at 16.30 Hrs** (5) Date of opening of Financial bids will be notified to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/6301/2025-26

Impeachment notice: Oppn accuses CEC of partisan conduct

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The I.N.D.I.A bloc's notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has referred to allegations of voter list manipulation in Karnataka's Aland and Mahadevapura seats levelled by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and the unsatisfactory response to them, sources said on Monday.

It also refers to Rahul's dissent note on the appointment of Gyanesh Kumar as CEC, as well as Kumar's remarks at a press conference in August last year seeking an affidavit from the Leader of Opposition for his claims on the Aland constituency and an apology to the nation within seven days, sources said about the notice submitted in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha last Friday.

Marking a first in India's parliamentary history, the Opposition sought his removal and submitted notices in both Houses, charging him with "partisan and discriminatory" conduct, "mass disenfranchisement" through SIR, and actions that "undermine public confidence".

The seven charges made by the Opposition in the notices include "proven misbehaviour", "partisan exercise" of constitutional functions favouring one particular party formation, and "deliberate obstruction" of investigations into instances of "electoral fraud", among others.

Sources said the identical notices, which are presently with the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats, have raised questions about the appointment process involving the Prime Minister, a Union Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, calling it flawed and referring to Rahul's dissent note. The Opposition holds the view that the selection process itself was "flawed".

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi with BJP Rajya Sabha winners Sujeet Kumar and Manmohan Samal in Bhubaneswar on Monday. PTI

Rastriya Lok Morcha chief Upendar Kushwaha shows the victory sign after winning the Rajya Sabha elections at the Bihar Vidhan Sabha, in Patna, on Monday. PTI

RS polls: NDA clean sweep in Bihar, wins 2 in Odisha

Oppn jolted by cross-voting, MLAs' abstentions

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Monday received a jolt in the Rajya Sabha elections in Odisha and Bihar, where its candidates lost to BJP-backed nominees after its MLAs either voted for the rivals or remained absent from casting their ballots.

In Haryana, where the counting started only late at night, the Congress approached the Election Commission in Delhi, accusing the returning officer of compromising the integrity of the process. BJP's Sanjay Bhatia, BJP-backed Independent Satish Nandal, and Congress' Karamvir Boudh are in the fray for two seats.

Bihar saw the NDA winning all five seats, with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, BJP chief Nitin Nabin, Union Minister Ram Nath Thakur, BJP's Shivesh Kumar, and RLM's Upendra Kushwaha romping home comfortably after three Congress MLAs and one RJD lawmaker refused to come to vote, leaving the RJD candidate and sitting MP AD Singh losing the battle.

Odisha saw all two BJP candidates, Manmohan Samal and Sujeet Kumar, and BJD's Santrupt Misra winning. A BJP-backed Independent, Dilip Ray, gave a shocker to BJD-Congress common candidate Datteswar Hota, who on paper had enough numbers to cross the hurdle but was undone by three Congress and eight BJD MPs who voted in favour of BJP-backed candidates.

ROUND-UP

- Of the total 37 vacancies in Rajya Sabha, elections were held for only 11 seats in Bihar, Odisha and Haryana as the rest of the members were earlier elected unopposed.
- The ruling NDA alliance wins eight seats
- In elections for four seats in Odisha, where a total of five candidates were in the fray, the BJP won three seats amid cross-voting
- Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge writes to the EC, alleging an attempt to interfere with the integrity of the RS election

26 elected unopposed

Already, 26 candidates have been elected unopposed in seven states, with the BJP cornering seven of them, Congress 5, Trinamool Congress 4, DMK 3, and Shiv Sena, RPI(A), NCP, NCP(SP), AIADMK, PMK, and UPPL one each. The winners include Sharad Pawar, Abhishek Singhvi, Tiruchi Siva, and Vinod Tawade.

The RJD defeat in Bihar came despite non-allies' five-member AIMIM and one-member BSP filling in for the deficit of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, which had 35 MLAs on paper. Of the 35, Surender Kushwaha, Manoj Biswas, and Manohar Prasad Singh (all Congress) and Faisal Rahman (RJD) did not come to vote.

If all the I.N.D.I.A MLAs had voted along with AIMIM and BSP, Singh would have romped home, as he would have got the required 41 first-preference votes.

Nitish and Nabin gathered 44 first-preference votes each, while Thakur and Kushwaha polled 42 votes each. Kumar secured 30 first-preference votes but managed to win with second-preference votes that outweighed Singh's.

In Odisha, at least three Congress MLAs – Ramesh Jena, Dasarathi Gomango, Sofia Firdous – and two BJD MLAs – Devi Ranjan Tripathy and Souvic Biswal – have cross-voted, which helped Ray, a former BJP Union minister who fought as an Independent, win against Hota.

The election had seen the BJD and Congress reaching an unprecedented agreement to support a common candidate to keep the saffron party away from winning an extra seat. The BJD-Congress combine had enough votes for the smooth sailing of Hota, but the defections undid the leadership's efforts.

Alliance suspense in Assam as BJP, Cong yet to seal pacts

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

SEAT UNCERTAINTY

- BJP yet to seal seat-sharing pacts with AGP, BPF
- UPPL hints at quitting NDA
- Congress struggles to rope in Raijor Dal
- AIUDF gears up for solo fight

Suspense continues over alliances in Assam, with both the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress still working to finalise seat-sharing pacts on Monday.

While the BJP released its candidate lists for West Bengal and Kerala, its inability to seal an agreement with allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) has kept party workers in suspense.

Though Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently claimed that seat-sharing was complete, sources in the AGP said a team led by party president Atul Bora is scheduled to meet BJP central leaders on Tuesday, ahead of a possible release of candidate lists on Wednesday.

UPPL on Monday night (at around 10.30pm) announced its candidates for seven Assembly seats under the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The party, however, kept the suspense on regarding the remaining eight seats under BTR.

On the Opposition side, the Congress has also fallen short of sealing a seat-sharing pact with Raijor Dal, an "anti-BJP" outfit led by MLA Akhil Gogoi. While the Congress has reached an understanding with the Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP), CPM, CPI (ML), and the All Party Hill Leaders Conference, its inability to bring Raijor Dal on board keeps the possibility of a split Opposition alive.

The main battle, however, is likely to be between the two alliances led by the BJP and Congress, respectively, while focus will also be on Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and its solo battle in Muslim-majority seats. The AIUDF, a party with its base among the state's Muslims (about 35% of the population), is gearing up for a solo fight this time, with the Congress deciding to maintain distance from it, mainly to face the BJP's Hindu-Muslim narrative.

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi is leading an alliance of Opposition parties with the aim of ousting the ruling coalition headed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

For Sarma, this will be his first Assembly election as CM. Sarbananda Sonowal was at the helm during the 2021 polls, but the BJP replaced him with Sarma after the results. A victory for the BJP would also mark Sarma's first electoral triumph as chief minister.

Gogoi, contesting Assembly elections for the first time, expressed confidence about a change in guard. "People will oust the corrupt government led by Sarma and help us establish a new Assam, where all sections can live in peace, unity, and enjoy their rights equally," he said.

Bengal: Actor, ex-cricketer on BJP's list of 144 candidates

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Monday released its first list of 144 candidates for the West Bengal Assembly elections, fielding Suvendu Adhikari from Bhawanipur, state-unit president Dilip Ghosh from Kharagpur Sadar, and former Rajya Sabha member Swapan Das Gupta from Rashbehari in South Kolkata.

To counter Mamata Banerjee's push to name from entertainment-industry bigwigs as TMC candidates, the BJP has fielded former cricketer Ashok Dinda from Moyna, actor-politician Rudranil Ghosh from Shibpur, and fashion designer Agnimitra Paul from Asansol Dakshin.

The party has fielded Biman Mahto from Salboni, Sumita Sinha from Kanthi Uttar, Biman Ghosh from Pursurah in the Hooghly district, and Madhavi Mahalder from Kultali in South 24 Parganas.

Anima Datta has been fielded from Palashipara, Lakshikant Sahu from Jhargram, and former reporter Santu Pan from Tarkeshwar.

Banerjee, who was defeated by Adhikari in 2021 from Nandigram, will have to face him again on her home turf.

BJP fields Suvendu from Mamata's Bhabanipur

Opposition leader will also contest from Nandigram

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

In a bid to take the fight to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's home turf, the BJP has fielded its West Bengal heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari in Bhabanipur, the constituency that elected the Trinamool supremo to the Assembly in a byelection a few months after she lost to him in Nandigram in 2021.

Mamata Banerjee

Suvendu Adhikari

Adhikari, a frontrunner for the BJP's CM face in Bengal, will also contest from Nandigram, according to the first list of candidates released by the saffron party on Monday.

Though the ruling TMC has not yet released its list, Mamata is likely to contest from Bhabanipur, which sent her to the Assembly in 2011 — the year she ended the Left Front's 34-year rule — and again in 2016. She may also contest from another seat.

A BJP leader said the party decided to field Adhikari, the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, against Mamata in Bhabanipur to keep her occupied in her own constituency, limiting the time she could campaign for other TMC candidates across the state.

"Mamata will be our candidate in Bhabanipur, and she will win the seat by over 50,000 votes. Suvendu will also be defeated by our candidate in Nandigram," senior TMC leader Bratya Basu said.

TMC insiders said the party might field a "surprise candidate" against Adhikari in Nandigram.

It was in Nandigram where a farmers' agitation, spearheaded by Mamata against the proposed land acquisition for a chemical industry SEZ in 2007-08, set the stage for the Left Front's downfall and the TMC's rise to power in 2011. Adhikari, then Mamata's close aide, played a key role in the movement and the party's ascent. He quit the TMC and joined the BJP in Dec 2020, months before the April-May 2021 polls. He defeated Mamata in Nandigram by a margin of less than 2,000 votes.

Heavyweights and dissidents in first list as BJP bets big on Kerala

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Kerala BJP state secretary and NDA candidate from the Nemom constituency, during a roadshow for the state Assembly elections, in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP on Monday announced its first list of 47 candidates for Kerala Assembly elections, fielding top leaders including Union Minister George Kurian, state party chief Rajeev Chandrashekhar, former Union minister V Muralidharan and former IPS officer R Sreelekha.

Former Congress chief minister K Karunakaran's daughter Padmaja Venugopal, who joined the BJP in 2024, has been nominated from Thrissur.

Seven women candidates

The seven women candidates in the first list include ex-DGP and first woman IPS officer R Sreelekha from Vattiyoorkavu in Thiruvananthapuram and firebrand leader Sobha Surendran in Palakkad.

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar had already announced his intentions to contest from Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram, the seat that the party won for the first time in 2016, but lost in 2021.

Former minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan will contest from Kazhakoottam in Thiruvananthapuram, and former state president K Surendran from Manjeshwaram in Kasargod district.

Retired army officer and filmmaker-actor Major Ravi will contest from Ottapalam in Palakkad.

Defectors get a chance

Dissidents from rival camps also found a place in the list. Former CPM MLA K Ajith, who recently joined the BJP, will contest from Vaikom in Kottayam; former Mahila Congress leader R Reshmi will contest from Kottarakkara.

Meanwhile, CPI sitting MLA CC Mukundan, who recently quit the party after being denied a ticket from Nattika in Thrissur, joined the BJP on Monday. He is likely to be fielded by the party.

Christian vote banks in focus amid mega outreach

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

KEY COMMUNITY

- Christians form 18% of Kerala's population
- Community can sway three dozen seats
- BJP nominates prominent community leaders in central belt
- Attacks on priests cloud BJP's outreach

The BJP has made a concerted attempt to reach out to the Christian vote bank in poll-bound Kerala, with the party nominating prominent community faces in Christian strongholds in the central belt.

George Kurian, Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs in the Narendra Modi government, has been fielded from Kanjirapally in Kottayam. A BJP old guard, Kurian began his political career with the Jana Sangh in the 1970s.

The party has also given tickets to former Kerala Congress MLA PC George and his son Shone George. PC George will contest from Poonjar, while his son will enter the fray from Pala.

BJP state general secretary Anoop Antony Joseph has been fielded from Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta, again a Christian stronghold.

Former defence minister and senior Congress leader AK Antony's son Anil K Antony, who was a BJP candidate from Pathanamthitta in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, is yet to figure in the first list. He now serves as the BJP national secretary and state in-charge of Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Christians constitute almost 18% of Kerala's population, and the community can influence electoral outcomes in around three dozen seats in the state.

The BJP has been making all-out efforts to woo the community, with national leaders, including PM Narendra Modi, holding deliberations with church heads. However, back-to-back incidents of attacks on Christian priests at various places by Sangh Parivar activists remain a setback to the party's outreach.

According to political analyst Jacob George, while a section of bishops has backed the BJP, such support is unlikely to sway Christian voters. He said that attacks on priests and nuns at several places have become a key issue, and many churches are also concerned about the BJP government tightening regulations on foreign funding.

DKS, Tejasvi to bolster Congress & BJP Assam campaigns

GUWAHATI, DHNS: BJP and Congress politicians from Karnataka are set to sweat it out in Assam to win the Assembly elections, scheduled for April 9.

DK Shivakumar

After the Congress appointed Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar as a central observer for the Assam polls, the BJP rushed Tejasvi Surya, the young Lok Sabha member from Bengaluru South. They are expected to attend several meetings before the polls for the 126-member Assembly.

"There is a strong wind in favour of a change," Shivakumar recently said in Assam while highlighting the development model in Congress-ruled Karnataka.

Congress leaders also promised that a new development model — like the one in Karnataka — would be implemented by the Gaurav Gogoi-led alliance if it were elected.

The Congress was in power for 15 years in Assam till 2016, when the BJP formed its first government with Sarbananda Sonowal.

However, the BJP replaced him with Himanta Biswa Sarma in 2021. The saffron party is now eyeing a third term, while the Congress has appointed Gaurav to lead the charge.

EC removes Bengal's top cops, bureaucrats ahead of polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Election Commission has removed top officials in the West Bengal administration and police department, including the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, in an unprecedented move that attracted the ire of Trinamool Congress, whose MPs walked out of the Rajya Sabha for the day in protest.

The EC's decision to induct new officers for the top posts came hours after the announcement of the Assembly poll schedule for West Bengal.

Separately, it also transferred five Senior Superintendents of Police in Assam and also sought a list of IAS officers who could be appointed as District Electoral Officers. It has also transferred four SPs in Tamil Nadu.

AKHILESH YADAV
Samajwadi Party chief

"Whenever there are elections in a state not ruled by the BJP, the first thing the EC does is change officials -- the DGP, the chief secretary and anyone who is against the BJP.

In its first order issued on Sunday late evening, it removed West Bengal Chief Secretary Nandini Chakravarty and Home Secretary Jagdish Prasad Meena and in a subsequent order on Monday, it removed the state's DGP Peeyush Pandey and Kolkata CP Supratim Sarkar, besides two other senior IPS officers.

Dushyant Nariala, a 1993-batch IAS officer and Additional Chief Secretary of the state's North Bengal Development Department, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary, while Sanghamitra Ghosh, a 1997-batch IAS officer and Secretary of the Women and Child Development department, as the new Home Secretary.

Senior IPS officer Siddh Nath Gupta of 1992 batch has been appointed the new DGP while Ajay Kumar Nand, an IPS officer of 1996 batch, will be the new Commissioner.

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MPs walked out of the House soon after it assembled in the morning after its floor leader Derek O'Brien said they were not disturbing the proceedings but were walking out against what the Chief Election Commissioner is doing.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objected to the remarks, saying the Opposition party has raised an issue on which the House or the government has nothing to do. "There is no point in raising it. Trinamool Congress and Congress always attack Constitutional authorities and it is not right," he said.

Kanimozhi wants to contest TN polls; Stalin yet to decide

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Kanimozhi Karunanidhi — the DMK's prominent woman face and the party's pointsperson in national politics — has shown interest in contesting the Tamil Nadu April 23 Assembly elections.

If Chief Minister and DMK chief M K Stalin accedes to Kanimozhi's request, the decision could alter power equations in the party, especially if it wins a historic second consecutive term.

Kanimozhi's entry into state politics, if it happens, would coincide with the projection of Stalin's son Udhayanidhi, the current Deputy CM, as his father's political successor.

Multiple sources told *DH* that Kanimozhi has not only conveyed her wish but also her choice of four seats.

"Kanimozhi is waiting for her half-brother Stalin to take a call on her wish. The decision rests with him," said a source with knowledge of the matter.

If Stalin agrees to field Kanimozhi, she might enter the fray from Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tenkasi, or Thoothukudi.

The aforementioned source added that Tiruchendur, currently held by Fisheries Minister Anitha R Radhakrishnan, and Tiruvarur, the native constituency of M Karunanidhi, which he represented twice, seem to be the top choices.

DMK MP Kanimozhi

A couple of weeks ago, the DMK's women's wing functionaries advocated for Kanimozhi to enter the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

"Many senior DMK MPs feel they should enter state politics as they believe the party will return to power. They argue that their political experience is underutilised in Parliament's Opposition benches. Kanimozhi, too, feels this is the right time to try her luck," said another source.

This is not expected to be an easy decision for Stalin, as Kanimozhi's poll entry and her active presence in state politics could overshadow his son's rapid rise.

Udhayanidhi has risen through the ranks — first the DMK's youth-wing secretary, then MLA, then state minister, and finally DyCM — since entering active politics in 2019.

Until now, Stalin has ensured that both Kanimozhi and Udhayanidhi get equal prominence in the party by showing that they can coexist without problems.

‘Go to sleep, it’s ok’: Family’s emotional farewell to Harish Rana

Specialised team to oversee passive euthanasia process that may take 2-3 weeks

GHAZIABAD, PTI

Meditative chants in the background, a loving hand on his forehead and the calm of words telling him ‘theek hai’... with that, the family of Harish Rana, in a coma for more than 12 years, prepared him for his final journey from their home in Ghaziabad to AIIMS Delhi where he will breathe his last.

The 31-year-old is the first person in India to be allowed passive euthanasia. In its landmark judgment last week, the Supreme Court also directed AIIMS-Delhi to ensure that life support is withdrawn with a tailored plan so that dignity is maintained.

The medical institute has initiated protocols to implement the court verdict allowing passive euthanasia, a process that will take about two to three weeks, insiders said.

AIIMS-Delhi begins process

AIIMS-Delhi has initiated protocols to implement the Supreme Court verdict allowing passive euthanasia for Harish Rana, a process that will take about two to three weeks, say insiders.

The 31-year-old was shifted from his Ghaziabad home to the palliative care unit at Dr BR Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday.

A specialised medical team headed by Dr Seema Mishra, professor and head of the department of anaesthesia and palliative medicine, has been constituted to implement the process, the first ever in India.

The team comprises doctors from departments of neurosurgery, onco-anaesthesia and palliative medicine, and psychiatry.

Harish has been shifted to AIIMS, and his family is getting ready to say adieu to the young man who fell from a fourth floor balcony in 2013 and suffered severe head injuries. He has been in a coma since.

A video from the Rana home in Ghaziabad shows relatives offering prayers as a member of the Brahma Kumaris puts a ‘tilak’ on Harish’s forehead and says softly, “Sabko maaf karte hue, sabse maafi mangte hue, so jaao theek hai... (Forgiving everyone and asking forgiveness from everyone. Now sleep. It’s okay).”

The family is reluctant to talk. Harish’s father Ashok Rana who had earlier told PTI that the family will not go public with his son’s shifting to the Delhi hospital, could not be reached for comment.

Fadnavis defends anti-conversion bill, cites exploitation of women

MUMBAI, DHNS: Accusing the Maha Vikas Aghadi of politicising the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said the proposed enactment aims to curb fraudulent religious conversions, especially those linked to coercion, inducement, and marriage, and does not single out or discriminate against any particular community.

The Maharashtra Dharma Swatantrya Adhiniyam, 2026 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly last week.

Speaking about the bill in the Legislative Assembly, Fadnavis said the bill aims to curb conversions that do not fit within the ambit of the law.

Fadnavis told reporters that the Opposition was politicising the issue for vote-bank gains; however, once they read the bill carefully, they will have no objections.

“Maharashtra is not the first state to come out with such a law,” the chief minister said, referring to states like UP, Gujarat, MP, Karnataka, and Uttarakhand that have enacted similar laws.

“There have been many cases where women were lured, they eloped, and were abandoned after marriage. In such a situation, it raises the question of their child from such a relationship. The Bill is trying to find out solutions to such problems,” he said.

Will not prosecute Ashoka varsity prof: Haryana to SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Haryana government on Monday told the Supreme Court that it has refused sanction to prosecute Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, showing one-time magnanimity in the criminal case registered over his social media posts on “Operation Sindoor”.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi disposed of the matter, saying it had no reason to doubt that the petitioner, being a highly learned professor, would act prudently in the future.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra appeared for the professor, who had sought quashing of the proceedings against him.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, representing the state government, stated that the government had refused to grant sanction to prosecute Mahmudabad, showing one-time magnanimity.

“He may be warned not to indulge in similar activity in the future. They have closed the issue and refused sanction. Therefore, the chapter is closed,” he said.

The bench commended the state for closing the issue.

“Sometimes writing between the lines creates more problems... but sometimes the situation is so sensitive. All of us are responsible citizens, and we have to,” the bench said.

The bench recorded Raju’s submission that the state had decided not to grant any sanction for prosecution and disposed of the professor’s plea.

On January 6, 2026, the Supreme Court had said the Haryana government might show one-time magnanimity towards Mahmudabad, who was facing a criminal investigation for two contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor, by withholding sanction for his prosecution.

Tollywood gets SOP to check digital piracy; disclaimer ‘must’ before movie screenings

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Tollywood, plagued with piracy, has now got a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the investigation of anti-piracy cases. The SOP is designed to strengthen enforcement against digital film piracy and establish a structured framework for investigation, digital evidence collection, and coordinated action against piracy networks.

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) formally launched the SOP on Monday. The TGCSB, in collaboration with the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC), had set up an Anti-Piracy Unit at the TGCSB in January.

The Anti-Piracy Unit has also launched a new Anti-Piracy Disclaimer to be displayed before movie screenings across theatres, aimed at creating awareness among audiences.

TGSCB director Shikha Goel and TFCC president Daggubati Suresh Babu, during a stakeholder consultation meeting held to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the film ecosystem in addressing the growing challenge of digital piracy, launched the two initiatives.

The newly launched SOP provides a comprehensive investigative framework, outlining procedures for registration of FIRs under the relevant provisions of the Copyright Act, Cinematograph Act, and Information Technology Act; forensic examination of pirated content; identification of source theatres through watermarking and server data analysis; coordination with digital service providers and industry stakeholders; preservation of electronic evidence; and action for blocking infringing URLs under applicable IT rules.

Industry estimates indicate that the Telugu film industry incurs a loss of nearly Rs 13,700 crore annually due to piracy.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

YOU'RE STILL SHOPPING?
WELL, I GET FREE SHIPPING WITH ANY ORDER OVER $100
ARE YOU CLOSE?
YEP, I JUST HAVE TO SPEND 64 MORE DOLLARS

Hagar The Horrible

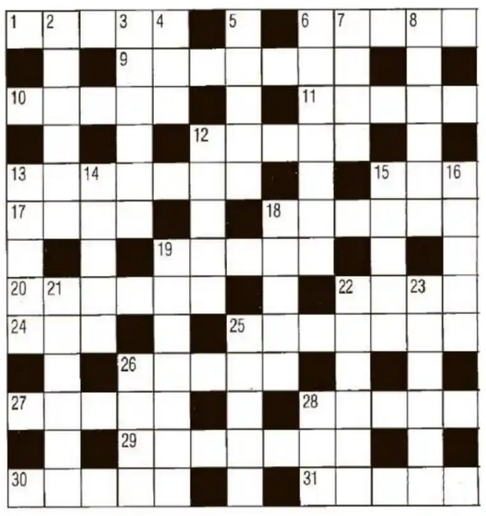
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

SOMEHOW I HAVE THE FEELING YOU'RE TRYING TO GET SOMETHING FROM ME
YOU'RE AFTER LINUS'S BLANKET, AREN'T YOU? WELL, I DON'T HAVE IT!
I GAVE IT TO THAT KITTY NEXT DOOR
KITTY?!
SOME KITTY!
SNARL! SLASH! GROWL! SLASH!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12375



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 One hastens with it (5)
6 Where there’s some stress at certain points (5)
9 He has little money for French wine (7)
10 To summarise, a military policeman’s no dunderhead! (5)
11 Flashy guy suffering key interruptions (5)
12 Not obviously silly, perhaps (5)
13 He’s free with his political views (7)
15 He’s a bit of a blade (3)
17 Dismissed by a cross editor (4)
18 Hope Paris may be on the end of the line (6)
19 Money to move around as you get rich (5)
20 In Chile, we hear, it’s cold (6)
22 Pastoral section of the Handel Largo (4)
24 Athenian female? (3)
25 Where Arthur arrived frequently? (7)
26 Old engine driver (5)
27 In broadcasting, Dora may be out of line (5)
28 The cost of a great ball? (5)
29 A beastly study? (7)
30 Are they said to sum up the possibilities of publicity? (5)
31 Growing reason why I’m in sore distress (5)

DOWN
2 It always comes first (6)
3 Avoided showing a noted figure to be dead wrong (6)
4 That lucky pickpocket? (3)
5 It’s involved in rowing with a bonehead, we hear (5)
6 We understand it to be communicative (7)
7 Keep going to the Nag’s Head and turning nasty (4)
8 Captivate the last listener (6)
12 The targeted aunt (5)
13 The tree of popular choice (5)
14 Start being clever (5)
15 To be ill can be against the law (5)
16 Traded blows? (5)
18 Like Uncle, in a state (5)
19 Soldiers are also in the scheme (7)
21 Her lad became a messenger (6)
22 Holds up for days, outwardly (6)
23 She puts her fortune on one match (6)
25 See fit to communicate (5)
26 Sighs audibly at the sheer magnitude (4)
28 I, for instance, have nothing (3)

ACROSS
1 Hippopotamus, in short (5)
6 Ventilated (5)
9 Area of fruit trees (7)
10 Slant (5)
11 Pugilist (5)
12 All-night watch (5)
13 Lean or bony (7)
15 Girl’s name (3)
17 Norse god (4)
18 Star sign (6)
19 Purchaser (5)
20 Term of office (6)
22 Long series of events (4)
24 Insect (3)
25 Diabolic (7)
26 Restrict (5)
27 Rustic (5)
28 Long pointed teeth (5)
29 Slim (7)
30 Thick (5)
31 One’s private book (5)

DOWN
2 Ibiza, for example (6)
3 Toy weapon (6)
4 Mineral (3)
5 Seat (5)
6 Referee (7)
7 Object of worship (4)
8 Number (6)
12 Indistinct (5)
13 Major artery (5)
14 Very tall person (5)
15 Italian city (5)
16 Light purple (5)
18 Gain access to (3,2)
19 System of raised writing (7)
21 Tolerate (6)
22 Jungle expedition (6)
23 Hair colour (6)
25 Indications (5)
26 Girl (4)
28 Gave food to (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12374

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Ma-dam 8, POW-ER 10, To-da-y 11, Man(ge tout) 12, Arson 13, AB-solve 15, Nests 18, Tee 19, Get out 21, Seances 22, Hood 23, Ek-Ed. 24, Details 26, Was-her 29, Ire 31, Sta-I-n 32, Knavish 34, Light 35, Eat 36, Villa 37, Inn-er 38, Slant.
DOWN: 1, Bombs 2, De-not-ed 4, Acre 5, Atones 6, M-one-t 7, Bantu 9, Was 12, Avenger 14, Lea 16, Socks 17, Study 19, Geraint 20, S-how-S 21, So-USA 23, Eleve-N-s 24, D-EN-ial 25, Ira 27, Attic 28, H-ill-s 30, Aster 32, Khan 33, I-a-n.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Steep 8, Kebab 10, Rears 11, Rub 12, Clear 13, Musical 15, Sinew 18, Tub 19, Feline 21, Matador 22, Abet 23, Help 24, Neither 26, Nugget 29, Mia 31, Sleep 32, Gastric 34, Chain 35, Hop 36, Brake 37, Cedes 38, Owner.
DOWN: 1, Rerun 2, Habitat 4, Till 5, Eraser 6, Peril 7, Green 9, Bus 12, Cabaret 14, Cut 16, Niger 17, Weeps 19, Footman 20, Warns 21, Merge 23, Heathen 24, Nephew 25, His 27, Ultra 28, Gecko 30, Viper 32, Give 33, Rod.

◆SU-DO-KU-6856◆

	9			7	5			3
7								9
				9		6		
	4			3				7
1	8		4		7		3	5
3				1			2	
		1		5				
2								4
5			3	2			9	

hard

5	4	2	8	9	6	3	7	1
3	1	6	4	7	2	5	9	8
9	7	8	3	5	1	4	6	2
7	6	3	5	8	9	1	2	4
2	9	1	6	3	4	8	5	7
4	8	5	1	2	7	6	3	9
8	2	4	9	6	5	7	1	3
1	5	7	2	4	3	9	8	6
6	3	9	7	1	8	2	4	5

SOLUTION TO 6855

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

								RACK 1
D2	S1	I1	E1	M3	L1	D2		
								RACK 2
S1	G2	R1	U1	G2	E1	L1	4th Letter Triple	
								RACK 3
R1	E1	D2	U1	A1	F4	D2	Double Word Score	
								RACK 4
U1	C3	N1	L1	V4	I1	I1		

PAR SCORE 170-180
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. “Blanks” used as any letter have no point value. All Judd’s words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD’S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

P3	I1	N1	W4	E1	E1	D2	RACK 1 =	63
T1	W4	O1	S1	O1	M3	E1	RACK 2 =	70
E1	J8	E1	C3	T1	O1	R1	RACK 3 =	98
M3	E1	A1	L1	Y4			RACK 4 =	20
A1	M3	N1	E1	S1	I1	A1	RACK 5 =	59

PAR SCORE 205-215 JUDD’S TOTAL 310

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EHIFT

DDEOG

CAALP

MHLYAN

You ladies know how to treat yourselves right. I understand you have more treatments after this.
We're going to let you work your magic all afternoon.
You have the perfect touch.
WHEN THEY USED THEIR SPA GIFT CARDS TO GET MASSAGES, THEY ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play_Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: KOALA FRUIT UTOPIA SOCKET
Answer: After the publicly traded company was taken private, its shares were — OUT OF STOCK

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

HITORI-3310

8	7	8	5	4	8	2	3
1	8	7	8	6	3	2	5
5	8	4	1	8	2	7	8
8	1	3	8	2	8	4	8
3	4	1	3	1	8	5	6
2	8	5	4	8	8	1	8
7	6	2	8	8	5	8	4
8	5	8	6	7	4	8	1

SOLUTION TO 3309

8	4	3	■	7	6	5	■
1	■	2	8	■	4	■	6
■	6	8	5	4	1	3	7
5	■	6	■	2	■	1	4
4	8	1	3	■	7	2	5
■	7	■	1	3	5	4	■
2	1	4	■	5	■	6	8
■	5	■	6	8	2	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3310

SOLUTION TO 3309

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3858

■	6							■
8	■		5		7	9	■	3
		■			2	■	8	4
	7		■	1	■	3	4	
	4	3	7	■				
6	2		■					
		9				■		
	■	7		9			■	
■							2	■

SOLUTION TO 3857

8	2	4	3	9	1	5	6	7
1	5	9	6	7	2	4	8	3
7	3	6	8	4	5	9	2	1
9	7	8	4	1	6	2	3	5
2	4	5	9	3	8	7	1	6
3	6	1	5	2	7	8	4	9
6	9	2	7	8	3	1	5	4
5	1	7	2	6	4	3	9	8
4	8	3	1	5	9	6	7	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

'Not Nato's war': Allies resist Trump's Hormuz call

Europeans rule out alliance mission despite rising oil fears

LONDON, AFP

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) and other Western allies pushed back on Monday against US President Donald Trump's demand that members of the military alliance help reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the critical conduit for crude oil that Iran has effectively closed.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said London was working with allies to craft a "viable" plan to reopen the strategic waterway but ruled out a Nato mission, while Berlin insisted it was "not Nato's war". Poland, Spain, Greece and Sweden were among other European nations to distance themselves from any military involvement in the Strait of Hormuz following Trump's call.

Japan and Australia voiced similar sentiments earlier on Monday, with Canberra saying it would not send a navy ship to the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump over the weekend called on countries including China, France, Japan, South Korea and Britain to send warships to escort tankers through the strait, warning that refusal would be "very bad for the future of Nato". Oil prices jumped after the strait was closed and remained above $100 per barrel on Monday as the Iran war moved into a third week. The volatility further underlined the importance of ensuring safe passage for tankers through the vital transport route.

An activist holds a placard during a rally against the US demand for South Korea to deploy troops to the Strait of Hormuz, in Seoul, on Monday. REUTERS

Starmer, who has faced sharp criticism from Trump over Britain's refusal to join the US and Israel in offensive attacks on Iran, told reporters he had discussed the waterway with the US leader on Sunday.

"We're working with all of our allies, including our European partners, to bring together a viable collective plan that can restore freedom of navigation in the region as quickly as possible and ease the economic impacts," he said in Downing Street.."Let me be clear: that won't be, and it has never been envisioned to be, a Nato mission," Starmer said, while also stressing Britain "will not be drawn into the wider war".

"That will have to be an alliance of partners," he added, referring to any potential Strait of Hormuz mission.

In Berlin, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's spokesman said the conflict had "nothing to do with Nato". "Nato is an alliance for the defence of territory" and "the mandate to deploy Nato is lacking" in the current situation, Stefan Kornelius said.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said there would be "no military participation" from his country but added that Germany was prepared to support diplomatic efforts "to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz".

KEIR STARMER
British Prime Minister

"Let me be clear: that won't be, and it has never been envisioned to be, a Nato mission.

'Difficult'

A Nato official noted that members "have already stepped up to provide additional security in the Mediterranean".

"We are aware that individual allies are talking with the US and others on what more they might do, including in the context of security in the Strait of Hormuz," the official told AFP.

Following Trump's demand for military support, some European countries sought to appear open-minded while remaining non-committal.

"We did not want this war. From day one, we have called for de-escalation," Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen told Danish media in Brussels before an EU foreign ministers' meeting.

"That said, I believe we need to keep an open mind and look at how we can contribute," he said, describing the situation as "very, very serious".

Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten told the country's ANP press agency that it would be "very difficult to launch a successful mission there in the short term".

India advises citizens in Iran not to cross land borders

DUBAI, PTI: India on Monday asked its citizens currently in Iran not to approach or attempt to cross any land border for onward travel without prior and explicit coordination with the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

In an advisory, the Indian Embassy said that Indian nationals attempting to leave Iran via land borders without its knowledge and guidance are highly likely to encounter serious logistical and immigration difficulties.

"...All Indian nationals currently in Iran are strictly advised not to approach or attempt to cross any land border of Iran for onward travel without prior and explicit coordination with the Embassy of India," the advisory said.

Beijing calls for immediate ceasefire

BEIJING, PTI: China on Monday called on all countries to immediately stop military operations in West Asia in response to US President Donald Trump's appeal to help keep the Strait of Hormuz open for international transport, ruling out Beijing joining any international naval force that could risk its close ties with Iran.

OSCARS 2026 WINNERS

• BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Amy Madigan
Weapons

• BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Sean Penn
One Battle After Another

• BEST ANIMATED FEATURE
KPop Demon Hunters

• BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM
Mr Nobody Against Putin

• BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM
Sentimental Value (Norway)

• BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM
All The Empty Rooms

'One Battle After Another' wins Oscar fight, bags 6 awards

Period horror fantasia 'Sinners' secures four

NYT NEWS SERVICE

"One Battle After Another" won six Oscars at the 98th Academy Awards on Sunday, including best picture and best director, cementing Paul Thomas Anderson's status as one of the foremost filmmakers of his generation.

A primal scream about authoritarianism and citizen resistance, "One Battle After Another" was also honoured for Anderson's adapted screenplay, giving the 55-year-old auteur three statuettes to take home after 28 years of nominations without a win. "One Battle After Another" also picked up awards for best supporting actor, casting and editing.

But the evening was not a sweep. "Sinners," a period horror fantasia about African American identity and trauma, received four Oscars, including one for Ryan Coogler's original screenplay. The film also won awards for its score, lead actor (Michael B. Jordan, another first-time winner) and cinematography.

Jordan played the diabolical twins Smoke and Stack. He thanked Warner Bros. and Coogler for "betting on original ideas and original artistry".

Irish actress Jessie Buckley completed an awards season sweep—including the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs and various guild ceremonies — by winning the best actress Oscar. She was honoured for her performance as a mother shattered by grief in "Hamnet".

Myanmar's parliament meets for first time in 5 years

NAYPYITAW, AP/PTI: Myanmar opened its first parliamentary session in more than five years on Monday following an election that did not include major opposition parties, ensuring that the ruling military is set to retain a firm grasp on power.

The military blocked Myanmar's last parliament from convening when it seized power from the last legitimately elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, and has governed without a legislature since then. It's touted elections held in late December and January as a step toward the return of democracy.

Susie Wiles diagnosed with breast cancer

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: Susie Wiles, the first woman to serve as White House chief of staff, has been diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer but will continue working while undergoing treatment, President Donald Trump said on Monday.

Wiles, 68, has been a constant presence at Trump's side since he returned to office in January 2025. Republicans have credited her with bringing greater discipline to the White House while allowing the president to operate largely on his own terms.

Religious freedom conditions in India deteriorated in 2025: USCIRF

NEW YORK, PTI

A US federal government commission has flagged the alleged worsening of religious freedom in India and called for the country to be designated a "Country of Particular Concern".

There were no immediate comments from India on the report issued by the US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). In the past few years, India has rejected USCIRF reports as "biased and politically motivated".

In its annual report, the USCIRF also called for targeted sanctions against individuals and entities, such as the Research and Analysis Wing and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, for their "responsibility for and tolerance of severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' or entities' assets and/or barring their entry into the US".

It recommended that the US government designate India as a "country of particular concern," or CPC, for "engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing and egregious religious freedom violations".

The report said that in 2025, religious freedom conditions in India continued to deteriorate as the government introduced and enforced new legislation targeting religious minority communities and their houses of worship.

"Several states undertook efforts to introduce or strengthen anti-conversion laws to include harsher prison sentences. Indian authorities also facilitated widespread detention and illegal expulsion of citizens and religious refugees and tolerated vigilante attacks against religious minority communities," it said.

The report also noted the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack against tourists in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the report, "three gunmen" attacked a group of "predominantly Hindu tourists in the Muslim-majority territory of Kashmir", killing 26 people.

"The perpetrators reportedly asked the victims to recite the Kalma, an Islamic verse, and killed those who were unable to do so. The attack sparked a five-day conflict between India and Pakistan and intensified anti-Muslim sentiment in India," it said.

The attack was carried out by the Resistance Front, a front for the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba. The report said future US security aid and bilateral trade policies with India should be linked to improvements in religious freedom. USCIRF also said the US Congress should reintroduce and pass the Transnational Repression Reporting Act of 2024 to "require annual reporting of acts of transnational repression by the Indian government targeting religious minorities in the US".

EU, India focus on implementing mother of all deals, says Ursula

BRUSSELS, PTI: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday said the EU and India are now focused on efficiently implementing their recently concluded free trade deal and security partnership.

Her remarks came after a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit to Brussels for talks with his EU counterparts. "At the EU-India Summit in January, we concluded our Free Trade Agreement — the mother of all deals — and signed a Security and Defence Partnership," von der Leyen said.

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara,
Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/WS(DSM)/2025-26/1730 Date: 11.03.2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Forecasting, Scheduling, Deviation Settlement Mechanism and related matters for Sellers and Buyers of Wind, Solar and RE-Hybrid Generation sources) Regulations, 2025.

Ref: KERC/WS(DSM)/2025-26/1299, dated: 10.12.2025.

The draft Regulations on the above subject was published in the Official Gazette of Karnataka on 16.12.2025 and the same is also made available on the KERC's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

The Commission has scheduled a public hearing in the matter on **07.04.2026 at 3.30 pm in the Court Hall of the Commission.** Interested Persons may appear in person before the Commission and may make oral submissions thereon.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/YC/6280/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/8613 DATE: 13/03/2026

E-Tender/term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders/Short term E-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 5 works under head of account 4059-CMIDP Bandaval Vecchа, and 3 works under head of account 3054-MDR Maintenance. Totally 8 No. of works, Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 20.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 312.00 Lakhs respectively.

Calendar of events: 1)Pre-bid meeting date: 27-03-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 30-03-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 01-04-2026 up to 5.00 PM,4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 04-04-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2085/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560012.
Phone: 080-23460460 (5 Lines)
E-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea

No: ED/KEA/DCET/CR-01/2026 Date: 16-03-2026

DIPLOMA COMMON ENTRANCE TEST - 2026 TO DIPLOMA HOLDERS - FOR ADMISSION TO 2ND YEAR / 3RD SEMESTER ENGINEERING COURSES UNDER LATERAL ENTRY SCHEME (INCLUDING DIPLOMA WORKING PROFESSIONALS)

1) Government in its order No. ED 88 DTE 2022 Bangalore dated 14-07-2022, has allowed eligible Diploma holders to select any Engineering branch for Admission to 2nd Year / 3rd Semester under lateral entry scheme.
2) Further, the Government in its order ED 137 DTE 2023 dated 12-12-2023, has given permission to Diploma Working Professionals for admission to 2nd Year / 3rd Semester under lateral entry scheme. (Subject to issue of seat matrix).
3) Pursuant to the Government directions, KEA is inviting online applications from eligible Diploma Holders and Diploma Working Professionals for admission to 2nd Year / 3rd Semester Engineering Courses under Lateral Entry Scheme in **"Engineering Colleges"** for the year 2026-27.
4) Candidates including working professionals have to appear for the Diploma Common Entrance Test-2026 conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority to become eligible for admission to Engineering courses under lateral entry scheme.
5) For admission to **Architecture Course**, candidates should have appeared and qualified in NATA-2026 **(National Aptitude Test in Architecture)** conducted by the Council of Architecture. (Further the candidates must compulsorily register for DCET-2026, fill the application through online and pay the application fees).
6) Admission to Engineering Colleges to Diploma Working Professionals is subject to the seat matrix to be issued by the Government.
7) **Academic Eligibility:** The details of academic eligibility for all the above courses are available on the KEA Website: **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea** The candidates are advised to verify the eligibility criteria before applying for any of the courses.
8) **Syllabus:** DCET syllabus issued by Department of Collegiate and Technical Education (ಡಿಟಿಇ 39 ಸಿಡಿಸಿ (1) 2024 – 28–01–2026) is hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates. (Common to all Engineering Diploma Programmes)
9) As per the Government Notification No. **ED 155 TEC 2022 Dated: 19-04-2025** the Karnataka selection of candidate for Admission to Government Seats in Professional Educational Institutions (Amendment) rules, 2022 read the following Diploma courses under "Schedule-I" **1. Dip NTTF (Tool and Dye Making) & 2. Dip NTTF (Electronics) as deleted.**

i	Commencement of Registration and filling of Application-cum-verification module	**From 12.00 Noon on 17-03-2026**
ii	Last date to fill the application online	**03-04-2026 upto 11.59 PM**
iii	Last date to pay the application fees - (online)	**04-04-2026 upto 6.00 PM**
iv	Downloading of Admission Tickets for DCET-2026 from KEA website	**07-05-2026 Onwards**

DCET-2026 Examination Time Table

Date / Day	Syllabus - (Common to all Engineering Diploma Programmes)	Timings	Marks
23-05-2026 SATURDAY	a) Engineering Mathematics b) Statistics & Analytics c) IT Skills d) Fundamentals of Electrical and Electronics Engineering e) Project Management Skills	**2.00 PM To 5.00 PM (3 HOURS)**	**100**
	Descriptive Kannada Language Exam (4th Standard Level) for Horanadu and Gadinadu Kannadiga candidates (EXAM CENTRE ONLY IN BANGALORE)	**10.30 AM To 11.30 AM**	**50**

NOTE:
Online application is application-cum-verification module and there will be no physical verification. The student entries pertaining to School Study, Kannada Medium, Caste Category, Annual Income etc will be verified through SATS / Revenue Department Web service. The candidates are advised to fill all the details carefully and upload the necessary documents.

NOTE: Visit KEA Website **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/** for more details.

Sd/-
(H.Prasanna, IAS)
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/6299/Adverto/2025-26

Trump may delay China trip

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

President Donald Trump may delay his China trip due to the Iran war, but Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday it would not be intended to pressure Beijing over the Strait of Hormuz.

Bessent said any delay to Trump's month-end trip to Beijing would not be because of disagreements over the Iran war or efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway crucial for global shipping. "If the meeting for some reason was rescheduled, it would be rescheduled because of logistics," the secretary said on CNBC. "The president wants to remain in D.C. to coordinate the war, and travelling abroad at a time like this may not be optimal."

Trump has suggested he may delay the trip as he seeks to ramp up pressure on Beijing to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz and calm oil prices that have soared during the Iran war. In an interview on Sunday with the Financial Times, Trump said China's reliance on oil from West Asia means it ought to help with a new coalition he is trying to assemble to get oil tanker traffic moving through the strait after Iran's threats throttled global oil flows. The Republican president said "we'd like to know" before the trip whether Beijing will help. "We may delay," he said in the interview.

The uncertainty highlights how much the US-Israeli strikes on Iran have reshaped global politics in the past two weeks.

India's trade deficit narrows to $27.1 billion in February

Logistical disruptions hit exports in March, says official

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's trade deficit narrowed to $27.1 billion in February, from a high of $34.68 billion recorded in the previous month, as imports of gold, silver and energy products moderated, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed on Monday.

However, on a year-on-year basis, the trade deficit in February was higher. It stood at $14.42 billion in February 2025.

India's imports jumped from $51.33 billion in February 2025, to $63.71 billion in February this year, registering a year-on-year increase of over 24%. However, it was lower from January's $71.24 billion.

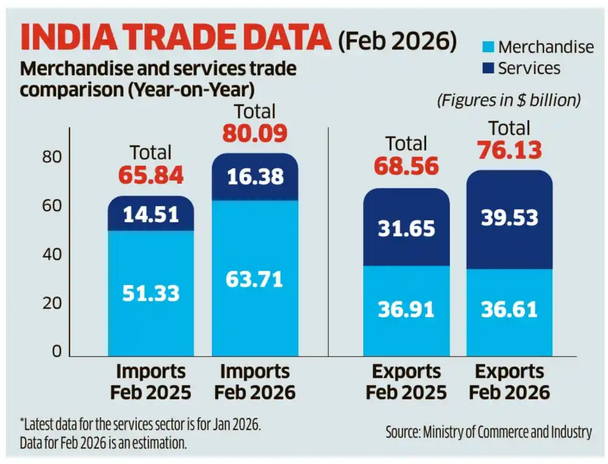
India's exports declined marginally to $36.61 billion in February, from $36.91 billion recorded in the same month, last year.

"This year has been challenging for Indian exports and there are logistical challenges due to the West Asia crisis," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said.

He added that India's outbound shipments may face further pressure in March due to logistical disruptions linked to the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president SC Ralhan said the conflict has heightened global trade uncertainty. "Disruptions in key maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea have forced vessels to reroute, increasing freight costs, insurance premiums, and transit times, thereby adding pressure on exporters," he added.

India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) increased by 11.05% to $76.13 billion in February, while total imports rose at a sharper pace of 21.64%, to $80.09 billion during the month under review.



Cumulative merchandise exports during April-February 2025-26 stood at $402.93 billion, as compared to $395.66 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year. Merchandise imports during the first 11 months of the current fiscal jumped to $713.53 billion, from $657.46 billion recorded in April-February 2024-25.

In the first 11 months of the current financial year, merchandise trade deficit widened to $310.60 billion, from $261.80 billion recorded in the corresponding period of 2024-25.

Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India chairman Pankaj Chadha said the "impact of energy market volatility has so far been limited in India, but there is growing uncertainty about price stability going forward".

"The world seems to be changing rapidly. The trade outlook just a month back appeared to be stable, but now it seems clouded," he said.

"The engineering exports sector cannot remain insulated from the happenings in West Asia. It is important to note that the UAE and Saudi Arabia are our second and third-largest export markets, respectively, after the US. The ongoing conflict is also expected to take a toll on our exports to West Asia and North Africa, considering that the UAE and Saudi Arabia are gateways to those markets," Chadha added.

WPI inflation jumps to 11-month high of 2.13% in Feb

West Asia crisis may push inflation further in March

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The annual wholesale inflation rose to an 11-month high of 2.13% in February, led by an uptick in prices of food and manufactured products, official data showed on Monday.

This is the fourth consecutive month of increase in inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). The WPI inflation stood at 0.96% in December 2025, and it rose to 1.81% in January. It stood at 2.45% in February, last year.

Wholesale food inflation jumped to 2.19% in February, from 1.55% the previous month. Inflation in primary articles — which include agricultural commodities and minerals — rose to 3.27% in February, up from 2.21% in January, and 0.21% in December, data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed.

"Positive rate of inflation in February 2026 is primarily due to increase in prices of other manufacturing, manufacture of basic metals, non-food articles, food articles and textiles etc," the ministry said.

Core inflation, excluding food and energy, jumped to a 40-month high of 3.3% in February 2026. This was largely due to higher inflation in textiles, tobacco, electrical equipment, and other manufacturing.

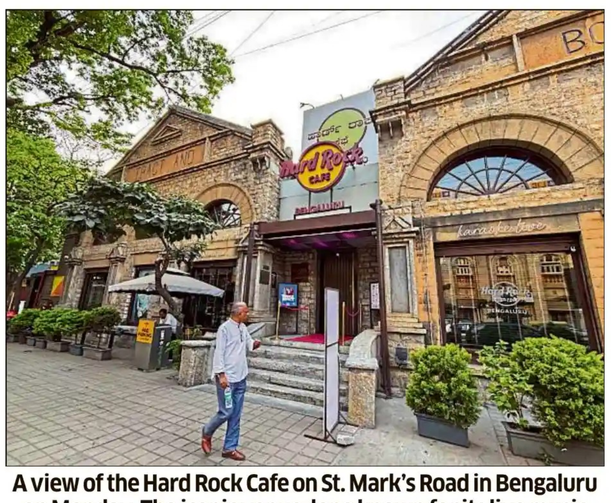
Crude petroleum inflation continued to decline year-on-year since September 2024. On a month-on-month basis, however, the fuel and power index rose 1.17%.

According to analysts, inflationary pressure is likely to rise further in March due to the West Asia conflict that has pushed oil prices higher.

"Looking ahead, elevated energy prices are likely to exert upward pressure on WPI inflation as input costs rise," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings.

The impact of elevated energy prices is expected to be more pronounced on WPI compared with CPI, given the higher weight of petroleum, natural gas, and mineral oil in the WPI basket (10.4%), relative to the CPI basket (4.8%). In addition to energy price risks, the increased probability of an El Nino weather event in FY27 could adversely affect food inflation, Sinha added.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) Chief Economist Devendra Pant said the WPI inflation is likely to rise to 3.7% in March. Ind-Ra expects the low base and US-Iran war to keep wholesale inflation higher. Wholesale inflation during March-November 2025 averaged 0.2%. "This coupled with a sharp price increase in gas, crude oil, and crude derivatives will keep wholesale inflation elevated," he said.



A view of the Hard Rock Cafe on St. Mark's Road in Bengaluru on Monday. The iconic venue, long known for its live music and nightlife, is set to shut down soon. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Hard Rock ends pact with India franchisee; 10 cafes to shut

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hard Rock International, the parent of the US-headquartered iconic Hard Rock Cafe chain, on Monday announced that it is formally terminating its franchise agreements with JSM Corporation Pvt Ltd and related entities covering the right to operate all Hard Rock Cafes and Rock Shops within India.

Accordingly, all Hard Rock Cafe outlets in the country operated by the master franchisee, including Hard Rock Cafe Bengaluru, Bengaluru International Airport, Bengaluru Whitefield, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Hyderabad Hitech City, Kolkata, New Delhi, and Pune, will shut shop.

The Hard Rock Hotel in Goa, however, will remain open and is not connected to the said operator, a statement from the parent company said.

Meanwhile, Hard Rock International did not reveal further details on this development, including any reasons behind it.

VCs view upGrad's acquisition as final 'bulk-up' before massive listing

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ronnie Screwvala-led upGrad, which has acquired multiple companies since 2022, including Harappa Education and Centum Learning, will acquire edtech startup Unacademy. Venture Capitalists view this as a final bulk-up before a massive public listing next year.

Founders of both edtech firms did not disclose the valuation, but said it is a 100% share swap deal.

upGrad's acquisition spree shows it is trying to build a larger learning and career ecosystem, not staying limited to one format or segment. The company acquired 10 businesses between 2020 and 2022, which makes it clear that acquisitions are a deliberate growth strategy. Through this approach, upGrad can expand faster into new categories like skilling, study abroad, and job-linked learning, instead of building each capability slowly from scratch, Somdutta Singh, Founder and CEO of Assiduus Global, said.

Last month, the company acquired Internshala, with a target to grow revenue from Rs 45 crore to over Rs 100 crore in 18-24 months. "That suggests upGrad will focus on stronger distribution, more cross-selling, deeper product integration, and better career outcomes. In simple terms, the acquired company gets a bigger platform, more reach, and stronger monetisation support," Singh said.

Ujwal Sutaria, Founder and General Partner at TDV Partners, said for upGrad, this isn't just another notch on the belt; it's a bid for total market dominance. "upGrad has traditionally owned the higher education and professional upskilling space. By acquiring Unacademy, it instantly absorbs a massive K-12 and Test-Prep audience. This creates a 'cradle-to-career' pipeline, where a student enters the ecosystem at age 12 and stays through professional retirement," Sutaria said.

He added that to command a premium IPO valuation, they need a diversified portfolio and a clear path to being the undisputed No. 1. Why the spree? In a consolidated market, the last man standing wins. upGrad is using its relatively stable balance-sheet to pick up distressed or reset assets (like Unacademy) to gain scale that would take decades to build organically, he explained.

EDTECH STARTUPS FUNDING

Year	Total Funding (USD)	Number of Rounds
2021	4,255,512,622	371
2022	**1,628,931,243**	**295**
2023	370,221,534	146
2024	**739,682,346**	**117**
2025	172,735,405	70
2026 YTD	**78,955,103**	**10**

Total number of companies founded

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD
2,040	1,467	1,280	724	234	1

SOURCE: TRACXN

A couple of months ago, upGrad walked away from acquisition talks due to valuation differences with Unacademy. During the pandemic period, Unacademy's valuation peaked at about $3.5 billion, but it subsequently dropped below $500 million.

Sunitha Viswanathan, Partner at Kae Capital, noted that a significant amount of capital flowed into edtech during the COVID years; however, in many cases, the sector struggled to demonstrate durable learning outcomes. As a result, investors have been more cautious post-COVID.

But VCs mentioned that AI has the potential to fundamentally reshape edtech. "Many of the ideas that the sector has long talked about, such as deeply personalised learning, a one-to-one tutor, or a patient learning coach, are now becoming possible at scale with AI," Sunitha said. Funding has become more selective, as global edtech venture funding fell to $2.4 billion in 2024, down 89% from the 2021 peak. Sutaria said funding has plummeted (down nearly 90% from its peak), but bigger bets are being placed on fewer players.

Sensex jumps 939 pts after 3-day fall

MUMBAI, PTI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded by over 1% on Monday, after facing a massive drubbing in the past three trading days, driven by value-buying in blue-chip banking counters.

The BSE Sensex rose 938.93 points or 1.26% to settle at 75,502.85. During the day, it hit a high of 75,805.27 and a low of 73,949.76. The NSE Nifty climbed 257.70 points or 1.11% to end at 23,408.80. The BSE MidCap Select index dipped 0.36% and Smallcap Select index edged lower by 0.25%. Among sectoral indices, BSE Top 10 Banks surged 1.61%, followed by Private Banks (1.38%), Financial Services (1.32%), Auto (1.23%), Bankex (1.08%) and FMCG (0.94%). BSE Oil & Gas dropped 2.29%, Hospitals (1.64%), Realty (1.51%), Energy (1.36%) and Healthcare (1.13%).

Meta shares up on report of layoffs

BENGALURU, REUTERS: Meta Platforms shares rose nearly 3% on Monday after a Reuters report that the social media giant plans to lay off 20% or more of its workforce to offset heavy spending on AI and bet on productivity gains from the technology.

If Meta settles on the 20% figure, the cuts will be the biggest since a late 2022 and early 2023 restructuring, which eliminated around 21,000 jobs.

Meta has spent heavily in recent years, building data centers and waging a talent war. It expects a capital outlay of up to $135 billion in 2026.

MakeMyTrip evaluates India IPO

NEW DELHI, PTI: Travel booking aggregator MakeMyTrip on Monday said it is evaluating a potential listing of its Indian business in the country to catalyse growth of the brand in its core market, strengthen its leadership in India and support longer-term growth.

The NASDAQ-listed firm said it has completed its internal restructuring to combine its key brands operating in India under a single entity, with the merger of RedBus India into MakeMyTrip (India) Private Limited.

"As part of its long-term growth objectives, the company is evaluating a potential listing of MakeMyTrip India in India, which could provide an additional avenue to access capital, including from domestic institutional and retail investors as well as enable it to provide India-listed equity as potential consideration for growth initiatives," MakeMyTrip stated.

PhonePe pauses IPO plan amid geopolitical crises

BENGALURU, DHNS: Walmart-backed PhonePe has temporarily deferred its public market listing process due to the current geopolitical conflicts and market volatility, and will resume the listing process once stability returns to global capital markets.

"We sincerely hope for a swift return to peace in all the affected regions. We remain committed to a public listing in India," PhonePe Chief Executive Officer Sameer Nigam said.

According to reports, the fintech firm was aiming to list at a valuation of around $10 billion. In January, PhonePe filed its UDRHP-I with Sebi.

The PhonePe digital payments app was launched in 2016, and as of September 30, 2025, it has over 65 crore registered users and a digital payments acceptance network spread across over 4.7 crore merchants.

Earlier, *DH* reported that if the market volatility continues, many IPO-bound firms might reassess plans. From Flipkart to Rapido, at least 24 companies are finalising their IPO plans.

Shashank Udupa, Fund Manager at Smallcase, said, new-age companies, especially tech and platform businesses, are very sensitive to valuations.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಎದುರು, ಹೈವೆನ್ಸನ್, ಜೋಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-570018
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821-2001737, E-Mail: ka.hootagalli.cmc@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಹೂ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/ಪ.ಆರ್.18/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-04 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆ**ಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:01.04.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿಯ ಅನುದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT56215	200.00	2,54,000/-

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/1841/2025-26

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, MLI Division-4, Devarahipparagi
No:KBJNL/MLID-4/PB/Tender/Road/2025-26/906
Dated:13.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP-Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender from registered KPWD contractors for the workindent No. **KBJNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT2745** on Percentage basis. Amount put to tender is Rs. 126.87 Lakhs, EMD amount is Rs 2.00 Lakhs.

Last date for submission of e-tender in kpp-portal is **31.03.2026** up to 5.00 pm. The bidders may submit their queries on or before **20.03.2026** upto **5.00 pm**. Pre bid meeting will be held on **23.03.2026** at 11.00 am in the office of the Chief Engineer KBJNL Dam Zone Alamatti. Opening of Technical bid is on **02.04.2026 at 11.00 am**. For further information and details, can visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can contact the office of the under signed during the office hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, MLI, Division No-4 Devar Hipparagi
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/811/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Ramamurthy Nagar Division, N.R.I. Layout Main Road, (Near Indira Canteen), Kalkere, Bengaluru-560016
No.EE/RMN/BECC/TEND/04/CGND/2025-26 Date: 16.03.2026

CORRIGENDUM-I

Sub: Corrigendum of Tender Notification No. EE/RMN/BECC/TEND/04/2025-26, Dt: 06.03.2026

Due to Technical Reasons, in this tender notification time schedule is modified & the revised time schedule is as follows;

Calendar of events: 1) Availability of Tender documents dated: **17.03.2026. 2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **Date: 23.03.2026 at 3.00 p.m. 3)** Last date for Tender Queries & Clarifications is on: **23.03.2026 upto 2.00 p.m. 4)** Last date for submission of tender documents on or before: **25.03.2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 5)** Technical Bids will be opened on **26.03.2026 at 4.30 p.m. 6)** Financial Bids will be opened on **30.03.2026 at 4.30 p.m.** Except for the above said changes there is no change in any of the Terms and Conditions of Tender Notification.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Ramamurthy Nagar Division, Zone-2, BECC.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, BNCC, Bellary Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.
No:BNCC/EE/ELE/TN/GN/04/2025-26 Date: 16-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer (Elect), Bengaluru North City Corporation, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru North City Corporation/GBA/KPWD/CPWD/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations on behalf of the commissioner, BNCC for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Providing and Installation of diesel generator and accessories to the Mini Vidhanasoudha Yalahanka BNCC Office Ward No.04. **Estimated. Cost: ₹.15.00 Lakhs, Amount Put to Tender: ₹.12.70 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.31,800/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from **17-03-2026**. (2) Bids must be submitted online through the KPP Portal on or before **24-03-2026** by **4:00** pm (3) The Financial bids will be opened on **25-03-2026** at **4.00** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division, BNCC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-4/K-8 sec guard/2025-26/15560-63 Date: 13.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids through KPPP mode for Providing **Manpower Service** of **Security (men) Services** required to 220 kV **MSEZ, Bajpe** R/s, 220 SRS Kavoor R/s, 220KV Netlamandur R/s, 110KV Bejai S/s & 110 kV Neharu Maidana S/s for a period of **one year (12 months)** pertains to Operations Divisions, KPTCL, Kavoor, Dakshina Kannada District. **Work Indent No.: KPTCL/2025-26/SE2360.**

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karanataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.03.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** Other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Ele.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064
FAX:080-28460367, PH:080-28072739
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in e-mail:smm.rwfblr@gmail.com

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/19/2025-26 Dated 13/03/2026

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from Manufacturers/ authorised dealers for supply of the item, on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender No.: P2256255A. **Brief Item Description:** Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of 100 KVA online Modular UPS with battery & Isolation transformer on buyback of old existing Transformer as per technical Specification No.RWF/EL/2025-26/100kVA Modular UPS/Rev-1 and Appendix to Technical Specification. **Quantity :** 2 Sets. **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 03/04/2026 14:00 hrs.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer, PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka . Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,
No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2025-26 /3173 Date: 12/03/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2025-26 CMIDP & Other heads in different talukas of Koppal district . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

General instructions:- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2).Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3)3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.This notified works can be downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal .

1) Construction of Road from Mandalageri to Malekoppa in Kukanoor Taluk Koppal District. CALL-3 IND 21285 APT 7957565.8 EMD 159500.00- 6 Months

2) Construction of road from Mannapur Village to Hallikeri road in Kukanoor Taluk. CALL-2 IND 21022 APT 12735327.71 EMD 191000.00-6 Months

Tender Processing Fees As per E-Procurement Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal From **17.03.2026** time after 10.00 AM upto **26.03.2026** time 16.00 Hours. Tender Receipt last dates From **17.03.2026**,time 11.00 AM upto **26.03.2026** Time 16.30 hrs Technical Bid open date and time(Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works **27.03.2026** in office hours. Financial Bid open date and time For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons .

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRE Division Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/758/KSMCA-2025-26

Helping students understand questions

DARSHAN B M

In recent years, the Indian education system has been gradually shifting from rote learning toward competency-based education. Boards such as CBSE and many universities now emphasise understanding, application and critical thinking rather than memorisation alone. As a result, examination questions increasingly require students to interpret, analyze and evaluate information.

One important framework that supports this approach is Bloom's Taxonomy. Although this concept is widely used in curriculum design and assessment, many students, parents and even teachers are not fully aware of what it means. Understanding Bloom's Taxonomy and its action verbs can help teachers frame better questions and help students respond to them more effectively.

What is Bloom's Taxonomy?

Bloom's Taxonomy is a classification system that organises different levels of thinking and learning. It was developed by educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom and his colleagues to help educators design learning objectives, teaching methods and assessments.

The framework explains that learning progresses through different levels of cognitive ability. These levels move from basic recall of information to more advanced thinking skills. The commonly used levels include Remember, Understand, Apply, Analyse, Evaluate and Create.

- **Remember:** Students recall facts, terms or definitions, such as listing the causes of an event or defining a concept.
- **Understand:** They explain ideas in their own words, for example, by summarising a concept or describing how something works.
- **Apply:** Students use knowledge in new situations, such as solving a problem using a learned formula or applying a theory to a real-world situation.
- **Analyse:** Students break information into parts and examine the relationships between them.
- **Evaluate:** They make judgments based on evidence and reasoning. At the Create level, students generate new ideas, solutions or interpretations.

This progression shows that learning is not limited to remembering information. It also involves deeper thinking and creativity.

Action verbs in examination questions

Teachers often frame questions using specific action verbs that correspond to these levels. These verbs signal the type of thinking that students should demonstrate in their answers.

Questions at the Remember level may use verbs such as define, list, name or identify.

- **Understand level:** Verbs such as explain, summarise, discuss or interpret are commonly used.
- **Apply level:** Questions may include verbs such as solve, demonstrate, use, or illustrate.
- **Analyse level:** Verbs such as compare, differentiate, examine or analyse appear.
- **Evaluate level:** Questions may ask students to justify, assess, criticize or evaluate.
- **Create level:** Verbs such as design, propose, develop, or construct are used.

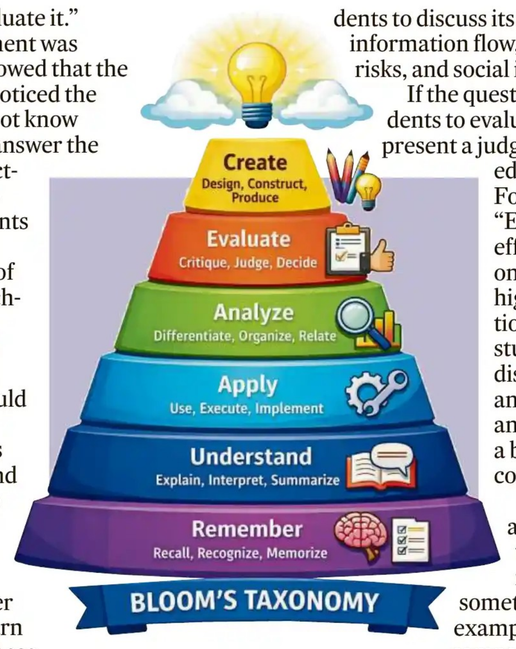
For students, these verbs serve as important clues, indicating how detailed and analytical their answers should be.

When students don't understand the verb

In many classrooms, teachers use these verbs while preparing question papers or assignments. However, students are not always guided on what these verbs actually mean.

I once experienced a situation that clearly revealed this gap. During a discussion about exam answers, one student argued with the teacher, saying, "You asked the question using the action verb evaluate, but you never taught us how to evaluate it."

This statement was striking. It showed that the student had noticed the verb but did not know what kind of answer the teacher expected. Before expecting students to respond at higher levels of thinking, teachers must first explain these levels clearly. Teachers should understand Bloom's levels thoroughly and then sensitise students to them. Students can perform better when they learn to interpret these verbs correctly.



Decoding action verbs

If a question asks students to analyse, it means they must break the topic into parts and examine relationships or patterns. For example, a question such as "Analyse the role of social media in shaping public opinion" requires students to discuss its influence on information flow, advantages, risks, and social impact.

If the question asks students to evaluate, they must present a judgment supported by reasoning. For instance, "Evaluate the effectiveness of online learning in higher education" expects students to discuss strengths and limitations and then present a balanced conclusion.

If a question asks students to create, they must produce something new. For example, "Create a campaign to promote responsible use of social media among students" requires students to design ideas, strategies or communication plans.

When a question asks students to compare, they should identify similarities and differences between two concepts. When the verb is explain, the answer should clarify the concept in a structured manner rather than simply listing points.

Teachers can explain Bloom's levels while discussing lessons, demonstrate how different questions require different types of answers and provide practice exercises. Classroom discussions, case studies and problem-solving activities can also help students move from memorisation to higher-level thinking.

When students become familiar with these levels, they begin to approach questions more strategically. They read the action verb carefully and structure their responses accordingly.

Students should develop the habit of carefully reading the question and identifying the action verb before writing the answer. Understanding whether the question asks them to explain, analyze or evaluate can significantly improve the quality of their responses.

Bloom's Taxonomy is more than just an educational theory. It is a practical guide that helps teachers design meaningful learning experiences and supports students in developing deeper thinking skills. For students, teachers and parents alike, understanding Bloom's Taxonomy is an important step toward making education more meaningful and effective.

(The author is an assistant professor in a Bengaluru-based college)

Project-based schooling for middle schoolers

Learning becomes enjoyable for students as they have to ideate, solve problems, research, apply and present their learning, writes Aruna Sankaranarayanan

CBSE is introducing 110 hours of practical, project-based training for students in middle school across three broad domains—life forms, machines, materials and human services from the next academic year. Kaushal Bodh, the vocational education activity book for Grade 8, published by NCERT, states that the aim of project-based education is to foster "knowledge, skills, attitudes and values" relating to "ecological sensitivity, gender sensitivity, digital skills and life skills." How do teachers feel about this change, and how are they gearing up to meet the new requirements?

Not a major shift for some schools

Jaimala Kannan, Advisor and Mentor at Sadhu Vaswani International School, Bengaluru, avers that this program will succeed only if schools embrace the pedagogical intent behind it. Nurturing future-ready, responsive citizens who are ecologically, emotionally, and digitally literate is a tall order. As hers is a progressive school that has always been "unschooling teachers" to teach in ways they were not taught themselves, this CBSE initiative melds beautifully with their philosophy and approach.

Likewise, Asha Dahima, an educationist from MVN Senior Secondary School, Sector-88, Faridabad, endorses the current initiative. She, too, feels that it is not entirely transformative as schools like hers have always had programs that promoted similar skills and values.

Gunjan Gupta, teacher and co-ordinator of Skill Education, Delhi Public School, Greater Faridabad, concurs as her school championed clubs from cooking to ecology to gaming, wherein students could pick an area that interested them and engage in hands-on learning.

What is perhaps novel about these new guidelines is that they formalise what many schools have been promoting informally. Right from the curriculum to the assessment, CBSE now provides structured guidelines that legitimise project-based education or "learning by doing," says Gupta.

As students are more engaged and excited when doing hands-on activities, Gupta is hopeful that this type of project-based learning will also extend to higher grades in the coming years. In the long run, she feels that all subjects, even the core academic ones, will benefit from adopting this approach.

Dahima believes that middle school is the ideal stage to introduce project-based learning, as children in Grades 6-8 are curious and capable of logical reasoning. Brimming with questions, they are optimally suited to explore and learn about the world beyond their school and home.

As projects tend to tap into their creativity and situate learning in meaningful contexts, middle-schoolers enjoy this form of learning, in which they have to ideate, problem-solve, conduct research, and apply and present their learning.

To give a concrete example, in the life forms domain, Grade 6 students plant a kitchen garden, Grade 7 students create a plant nursery, and Grade 8 students learn to grow plants using hydroponics. Students also have to complete an activity book and take part in a viva.

Additionally, every student must maintain a portfolio in which they record what they do in each session and complete a reflection sheet with their key takeaways. According to Gupta, the projects have been designed to be completed entirely in school, with no homework required.

Benefits of project-based education

Dahima agrees that project-based learning has numerous advantages. Besides inculcating interest, projects lend themselves to collaborative learning. She finds that academic hierarchies, in which students are bracketed as toppers, mediocre, or poor, are dismantled when students engage in group projects.

Jaimala also believes that these projects promote interdisciplinary collaboration, which is key to solving real-world problems. She also adds that learning by doing will help children identify their interests and strengths, thereby helping them pick a stream that resonates with them. Eventually, Jaimala hopes that this program can be extended to provide summer internships for older students.

Uneven preparedness

All the teachers agree that schools catering to children from higher socioeconomic strata are better equipped, both in terms of faculty and resources, to meet the demands of project-based learning. Gupta says her school has the wherewithal to address all the topics suggested except raising farm animals. However, because there are two topics for each project, they may choose the other.

For schools that have focused mainly on teaching content and assessing students primarily through paper-and-pencil tasks, this program will engender a significant shift. A teacher's role will morph from delivering content to "facilitating an experience," says Jaimala.

Unfortunately, schools serving children from low socioeconomic backgrounds lack both manpower and the infrastructure to implement project-based learning effectively. Some of the projects, especially those related to AI and digital citizenship, require access to computers and the Internet. Let alone computers and Wi-Fi, some schools don't have reliable electricity or even basic furniture.

Jaimala also notes that it is imperative for parents to understand the pedagogic aims of this initiative. For the program to take root and sustain itself over the long term, parents need to appreciate its purpose and merits. While CBSE has provided guidelines, the success of this initiative will depend largely on how it is implemented across a variety of schools and settings.

(The author is a psychologist, writer & Visiting Faculty, Azim Premji University)

BULLETIN BOARD

A summer of repairs

Repair Cafe Collective India and KREU, in association with Repair Cafe Bengaluru Foundation, are organising 'Teaching Repair: Summer Camp Bonanza', a set of hands-on learning programmes that introduce participants to the basics of repairing everyday household items. Three formats are offered: Tinker Kinder Virtual (a five-day online programme starting April 2), Tinker Kinder Offline (a two-day hands-on workshop on April 18 focusing on tools, troubleshooting gadgets and bicycle maintenance), and Tinker Kinder Virtual – Short (a two-hour online session on April 19). The programmes help participants understand how common objects work and build practical repair skills. Registrations via WhatsApp: 9739686665 / 9916509025. Repair Cafe arranges special programmes for schools, communities, and underprivileged children on request.

Content and social media marketing

NextMile is hiring a content and social media marketing intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Canva, community management, content writing, copywriting, customer support, Instagram marketing, social media marketing, and video editing can apply by April 11. The stipend is Rs 9,000-13,000 /month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/582437ya.

Shopify developer internship

Pickyfits Official is hiring a Shopify development intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of CSS, E-commerce, HTML, JavaScript, and Shopify can apply by April 11. The stipend is Rs 6,000-8,000 / month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/2d5fu66s.

Bad bosses can kill teamwork: Study

A new research co-led by Liu-Qin Yang, a professor of psychology at Portland State University (PSU), suggests that the true damage of a toxic boss goes far deeper than a bad mood. It fundamentally alters how employees perceive their own humanity.

Published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, the study identifies "organisational dehumanisation" as the primary mechanism that strips employees of their agency, leading to severe burnout and a collapse in workplace collaboration. By conducting a dyad study in China and a longitudinal study in North America, the research team tracked how specific supervisor behaviors, such as ridicule or invading privacy, cause employees to feel more like "tools" or "cogs in a machine" than human beings.

"Abusive supervision compromises an employee's sense of agency," Yang said. "Our findings show that this sense of dehumanisation creates two distinct pathways of destruction within a company's culture."

The researchers found that when an employee's sense of humanity is compromised, it triggers a ripple effect through two specific channels. First, the internal toll manifests as a sense of inauthenticity, where employees feel they cannot be their true selves at work. This constant self-suppression leads directly to emotional exhaustion and severe burnout.

Second, the study identified a social toll characterised by powerlessness. Believing they have no influence over their environment, these dehumanized employees become significantly less likely to engage in "interpersonal helping," the voluntary teamwork essential for organisational success. The study also highlights a critical "safety net" known as chronic self-efficacy. Employees with a persistent belief in their own ability to overcome challenges were found to be less susceptible to the dehumanising effects of a toxic manager. This internal resource allowed them to maintain their performance and sense of self despite an abusive environment.

The findings suggest that standard "fairness" initiatives are insufficient to protect a workforce from the dehumanisation effect. Instead, the study advocates for a human-centric approach to management that restores employee agency.

"To mitigate these risks, organizations should adopt practices aimed at preventing leader abuse through development programs that emphasize respectful communication," Yang noted. "By fostering employee self-efficacy and implementing human-centric management, companies can protect their most valuable asset—the humanity of their workforce."

- Phys.org

A heritage school that rekindles the love of learning
SKEI stands as a cornerstone of academic brilliance and next-generation learning. Through a curriculum, uniquely designed, we ensure each and every student is empowered to grow academically, socially and holistically.
An educational initiative of the VST GROUP.
Unique Learning Methodology & Curriculum:
• Robotics • STEAM Curriculum • Performing Arts
• Yoga & Karate • Organic Farming
• Atal Tinkering Lab • Dedicated Sports Stadium
SKEI
CBSE School
Smt. Kamalabai Educational Institution
Edward Road,
Off Queens Road,
Bangalore - 560052
Ph. 9980797527
www.skei.edu.in
95TH ANNIVERSARY
ADMISSIONS OPEN
Nursery to Grade 10
2026-27

Espionage wins main event

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Donald Netto-trained Espionage, ridden by Kuldeep Singh, won the Time And Place Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Monday.

1. Own Opinion Plate - 1200M: Special Star (Ajay Kumar) 1; La Fleuriere (Trevor Patel) 2; Daring Spirit (Sai Kumar) 3; Zindabad (Santosh Raj) 4; NR: Beverley & Star Councillor.; WB: 3/4, 1/2, 2-1/4L; T: 1:13.46; TB: Prasad Raju: Double Bubble.

2. Elusive Hero - 1400M: Certainity (Kuldeep Singh) 1; Corte Madera (Suraj Narredu) 2; Mystical Dawn (Ajeeth Kumar) 3; Misty Night (Akshay Kumar) 4; WB: 1, 3, 1-1/4L; T: 1:25.97; TB: Laxman Singh; Fav: Corte Madera.

3. Democracy Plate- 1600M: Real Thalaivaa (Dhanu Deora) 1; Whistledown (Ajeeth Kumar) 2; Arizona Sun (Akshay Kumar) 3; Cape May (Suraj Narredu) 4; WB: 3, 3-3/4, 3L; T: 1:40.28; TB: Jasbir Singh; Fav: Cape May.

4. Armagnac Plate - 1200M: Deccan Spirit (Dhanu Deora) 1; Tootsie Darling (Ajeeth Kumar) 2; Warwick (Afroz Khan) 3; Mexican Wave (Rafique Sk) 4; WB: 3/4, 3/4, 3-1/4L; T: 1:12.53; TB: Magan Singh; Fav: Tootsie Darling.

5. Himalaya Plate - 1400M: Madante (Akshay Kumar) 1; Gold Touch (Kuldeep Singh) 2; Grit N Grace (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Northern Sky (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 4-3/4, 3/4, 3/4L; T: 1:25.04; TB: Vittal Deshmukh; Fav: Grit N Grace.

6. Time And Place Plate - 1400M: Espionage (Kuldeep Singh) 1; Nonpariel (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Diablo (Ajay Kumar) 3; One N Only (Sai Kumar) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 3/4L, Nk; T: 1:24.60; TB: Pesi Donald Netto; Fav: Nonpariel.

7. Bloomer Plate - 1200M: Natu Natu (Ajay Kumar) 1; Deccan Ranger (Akshay Kumar) 2; Battle On (Ismail) 3; Niloufer The Great (Afroz Khan) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 6L, Nk; T: 1:14.08; TB: Laxman Singh; Fav: Deccan Ranger.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 41w; 16, 12, 73p; Fc: Rs 101; Q: Rs 57; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 225; Tri: Rs 9,889; Ex: Rs 14,996 (c/o). **II race:** Rs 53w; 18, 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 89; Q: Rs 32; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 411 & 216; Ex: Rs 856 & 329. **III race:** Rs 205w; 28, 13, 24p; Fc: Rs 877; Q: Rs 276; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 4,863 & 1,459; Ex: Rs 34,119 & 14,622. **IV race:** Rs 44w; 20, 10p; Fc: Rs 77; Q: Rs 18; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs; 23; Tri: Rs 98 & 71. **V race:** Rs 45w; 16, 47, 12p; Fc: Rs 1,186; Q: Rs 834; Shp: Rs 209; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 7,803 & 1,216; Ex: Rs 19,518 & 16,730. **VI race:** Rs 83w; 21, 10, 31p; Fc: Rs 172; Q: Rs 68; Shp: Rs 43; Thp: Rs 73; Tri: Rs 2,060 & 1,135; Ex: Rs 38,408 & & 16,460. **VII race:** Rs 79w; 20, 11, 19p; Fc: Rs 197; Q: Rs 109; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 1,085 & 655; Ex: Rs 80,359 & 11,479.

Jackpot: Rs 2,47,033 (c/o). **Runner-up:** Rs 52,935 (2). **I treble:** Rs 17,539 (2). **II treble:** Rs 5,348 (19).

Vyasa for main event

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

G Sandeep-trained Vyasa, to be ridden by Ashhad Asbar, is fancied to win the upper division of the Onnu Onnu Onnu Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Tuesday. The first race starts at 3 pm.

1. Narayanpet Plate (Div I) - 1100M: La Quinta 1, Red Hot Punch 2, Golden Aura 3.

2. Flirting Vision Plate - 1200M: Dream To Fly 1, Crimson Rose 2, Quality Warrior 3.

3. Onnu Onnu Onnu Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Vyasa 1, Decoy 2, Star Forever 3.

4. Mossy Bank Plate - 1400M: Rival 1, Clefairy 2, Bhairava 3.

5. Hyderabad Plate - 1100M: Fugo 1, Knotty Circuit 2, Sporting Touch 3.

6. Onnu Onnu Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Northern Waves 1, Cherie Chevalier 2, Secret Saint 3.

7. Narayanpet Plate (Div II) - 1100M: Authoritarian 1, Faizah 2, My Honey 3.

Day's best: Dream To Fly.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

I treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

English sides seek a turnaround

City host Madrid; Chelsea face tough PSG challenge

LIVE 11:15 PM ONWARDS, SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Manchester City will have a mountain to climb when they host Real Madrid in the second leg of the Champions League round of 16 at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday. REUTERS

MANCHESTER, AFP

Kings of the league phase, England's six Champions League sides were made to look like paupers in the first legs of the last 16 as they failed to muster a win between them.

Manchester City, Chelsea and Tottenham have seemingly insurmountable mountains to climb, even with home advantage this week, as they trail by three goals against Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Atletico Madrid respectively.

Liverpool and Arsenal will expect to still get past Galatasaray and Bayer Leverkusen, while Newcastle are dreaming of shocking Barcelona in the Camp Nou after outplaying the Spanish champions in a 1-1 draw at St James' Park.

The Premier League's financial advantage over Europe's other major leagues, thanks to far more lucrative television rights deals, has not been reflected in the latter stages of the Champions League for some time.

Only three of the last 13 Champions League winners have come from England.

Arsenal were the only Premier League club to reach the last four last season and none reached the semifinals in the 2023/24 campaign.

Fatigue after a gruelling winter schedule is often cited as the main factor for the decline of English sides as the only major league without a winter break and two domestic cup competitions.

French great and former UEFA president Michel Platini once referred to English sides as "lions in winter, lambs in spring".

"In general, I think it is not helpful for English clubs not to have a winter break," said Liverpool boss Arne Slot.

Of the six English sides involved in the Champions League, four of them also made the League Cup semi-finals and five were involved in FA Cup action in the days before their European disappointment last week.

Despite the Premier League's collective financial might, in three of the six last-16 ties involving English clubs, they are facing sides with greater revenue.

Real Madrid remain the world's richest club and defied recent poor form to blow away Manchester City 3-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Defending champions Paris Saint-Germain also clicked back into gear to see off Chelsea 5-2 and Barcelona were happy to escape Newcastle on level terms after Lamine Yamal's penalty snatched a late draw.

Tottenham's 5-2 defeat by Atletico was also little surprise given Spurs' sorry domestic form which has left them fighting for their survival in the Premier League.

"Before the Premier League is the best in the world, right?," said City boss Pep Guardiola.

"The competition (Champions League) is tough and everyone is so well prepared."

The Premier League has become even more attritional this season, with games littered with long throw-ins and physical battles at set-pieces.

"It's so relentless, physically. There's not much control; it's a running game. It's about duels," said Newcastle's Anthony Gordon earlier in the season.

Slot commented earlier this month that the English game is no longer a "joy to watch" due to the emphasis on dead balls.

"Here, you can almost hit a goalkeeper in his face and the referee still says 'just go on'," added the Dutchman.

By contrast, Slot was angered by Spanish referee Jesus Gil Manzano's reluctance to allow any physical contact from corners as the Reds had an equaliser ruled out in their 1-0 defeat in Istanbul.

Guardiola has responded to the fashion for a more physical Premier League by beefing up his City side.

But they lack the control and poise to dominate the ball they used to have and were cut open by Federico Valverde's first-half hat-trick in Madrid.

Tuesday's fixtures: Sporting vs Bodo/Glimt (11:15 pm), Chelsea vs PSG, Manchester City vs Real Madrid, Arsenal vs Leverkusen (all 1:30 am, Wednesday).

Chelsea face suspended transfer ban

Chelsea have been fined £10.75 million ($14.27 million) and received a suspended one-year transfer ban in relation to historical breaches of Premier League rules, it was announced on Monday. reports AFP from London.

The London club have also been hit with an immediate nine-month academy transfer ban, the Premier League said.

The sanctions relate to information shared with the league by the consortium led by American businessman Todd Boehly following their takeover of Chelsea.

Sinner, Sabalenka reign supreme

Italian flexes his muscle against Russian Medvedev

INDIAN WELLS, AP

Jannik Sinner beat Daniil Medvedev in the Indian Wells final 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4), winning seven straight points to rally from a 4-0 deficit in the second-set tiebreak and claim the title without dropping a single set.

The No. 2-ranked Italian beat Medvedev for the ninth time in their last 10 matches to claim his first title at the California desert tournament. Medvedev handed top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz his first loss of the year in the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open.

Sinner congratulated fellow Italian Kimi Antonelli, who won Formula One's Chinese Grand Prix earlier Sunday.

"It hasn't anything to do with tennis, but it has been a special day for Italy," Sinner said. "Because I'm a huge Formula One fan and having a very, very young Italian, Kimi, bringing Italy back home at the top, it's amazing. So, thanks, Kimi, thanks Formula One, and see you next year."

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka beat Elena Rybakina 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6) in the women's final Sunday for her first Indian Wells title. Sabalenka, a runner-up in 2023 and '25, finished off the win with a big serve that Rybakina hit long.

It was a sweltering afternoon on the court as the temperatures soared into the 90s. The 27-year-old Sabalenka had a chance to close out the third set but was broken at 5-4. Rybakina found herself with a championship point in the tiebreaker, only to have Sabalenka hit a backhand winner.

"I think the whole idea going into this match was to be mentally strong, to stay strong, no matter what, to show with the body language that I'm here, I'm fighting," Sabalenka said in a post-match interview on the Tennis Channel. "You have to get a win with incredible tennis and that was the whole idea going into this one. I'm happy that it really worked."

It's been quite a stretch for Sabalenka. First, a puppy and then an engagement ring from Brazilian businessman Georgios Frangulis.

Now, a title in the desert.

"I'll remember it for the rest of my life," she said.

This marked the 16th time the two players have met, with Sabalenka now holding a 9-7 advantage.

Jannik Sinner (right) and Aryna Sabalenka were crowned champions of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Sunday. IMAGN IMAGES

Ayush Shetty

Ayush, Tanvi to lead Indian challenge

ORLEANS, PTI

Youngsters Ayush Shetty and Tanvi Sharma will lead India's challenge at the USD 250,000 Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday after senior shuttler HS Prannoy pulled out due to a shoulder injury.

Prannoy, who was originally slated to face top seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the opening round, was forced to withdraw after experiencing shoulder pain during the Swiss Open in Basel last week.

While the cause of his discomfort was unclear initially, the Indian had decided to pull out of his match against Japan's Koki Watanabe to avoid aggravating the injury.

"The shoulder pain developed after travelling to the Swiss Open. We didn't know the reason then, so I decided to withdraw and fly back," Prannoy said.

"After a scan it showed a slight tear. It is a minor thing and hopefully I should be okay soon," added the seasoned pro, who is targeting a return at the Asian Championships to be held from April 7 to 12 in Ningbo, China. While Prannoy will miss the event, the rest of the Indian contingent will look to make a deep run in the tournament. All eyes will be on eighth seed and world No. 25 Ayush Shetty, who won the US Open Super 300 last year.

Diksha moves into top 10

ADELAIDE, PTI: India's Diksha Dagar moved into the top 10 of the Ladies European Tour Order of Merit, climbing to ninth despite a modest finish at the Australian Women's Open.

Diksha, a two-time winner on the LET, was Tied-45 in the Australian Women's Open but her fifth place a week earlier at the Australian Women's Classic has helped her hold a strong place in the list. She has now made the cut in each of the three events in Australia.

The next best Indian is Pranavi Urs, who missed the cut this week, but is 44th with 14th place at Australian Women's Classic as her best.

Avani Prashanth is 75th after making her first cut in Australia this year. She was earlier 39th in Saudi Arabia. Aditi Ashok, who has played just one event, is 97th.

KARNATAKA NEERAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of The Executive Engineer, KNNL, TLBC Division No. 3, Sindhanur-584128
No: KNNL/EE-3/TS/TLBC/4701/Notification/2025-26/ 2459 Date:13.03.2026.

Short Term Tender Notification [Call-3]
(Through e-procurement only)

The Percentage Basis tenders through E-Procurement platform in **Two Cover** system (i.e., Technical Bid and Financial Bid.) are invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, TLBC Division No.3, Sindhanur on Behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building, Dr|| B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 from Eligible Contractor KPWD Class-III and Above for 4 works of Providing CC lining and Construction of CD Works, Re-Construction of Head Sluice and Re-Construction of Pipe Out let and Fixing of Shutters, the Amount put to tender is Minimum Rs. 126.14 Lakh and Maximum Rs. 168.84 Lakh. Last date for submission of tender through electronic tender is Date: 26.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM. The Name of work, amount put to tender, EMD amount, tender conditions and other information can be obtained from this office during office hours or through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.

DIP/RCR/764/KSMCA/767/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, TLBC Division No.3, Sindhanur.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU - 560 017
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following works.

Description	Details	Details
Name of work	Providing Heavy Duty Motorised Horizontal Steel Sliding Door to Storage Building adjacent to AITF - 2 at ISITE Campus, URSC Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037	Providing Double Girder EOT Crane to Storage Building adjacent to AITF - 2 at ISITE Campus, URSC Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/DOOR/1064/ETN-102M/2025-26 Dt.13.03.2026	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/CRANE/1065/ETN-103M/2025-26 Dt.13.03.2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 47.67 Lakhs	₹ 124.51 Lakhs
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 months	180 days / 06 months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 95,340/- (Validity for 180 days)**	**₹ 2,49,020/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.EEE/PND/AEE-1/2025-26/4432-33 Date: 13.03.2026

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public that, the "2x20MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Raghavendradhama (Doddabyalakere), Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban district" Existing Lilo Line Peenya DG plant 1 & 2 Double circuit 0.104 k.mts and the line will be energized on or after **16.03.2026.** General Public is hereby informed not to climb the towers, or to throw metalic pieces or green twigs or tie animals to the tower as it endangers their lives. In spite of this notification, if anybody tries to climb the towers or tie animals or throw metalic pieces or green twigs resulting in any mishap, they themselves will be responsible for such acts and deeds and KPTCL will in no way be responsible for the consequences.

Further in this matter the land owners coming under the said line are informed not to grow any Trees/plants below the line for a corridor width of 9 meters on either side of the line from the centre of the tower (Total – 18 mtrs) as it is dangerous to the human and animal lives.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec,)
(Project Division)-North, KPTCL, Office Complex,
Anandrao Circle, Bengaluru-09.

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date: 16.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/IND1090	Procurement of Microsoft Software Licenses	Goods	14-03-2026	26-03-2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND1091	Server OS Upgrade, Active Directory Modernisation & License compliance	Goods	14-03-2026	01-04-2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/IND1141	Procurement of PPTD Calcium Carbonate	30 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
4	KSDL/2025-26/IND1142	Procurement of Dolomite Powder - Rajasthan source	600 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
5	KSDL/2025-26/IND1143	Procurement of Dolomite Powder (Local)	600 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
6	KSDL/2025-26/IND1144	Procurement of White clay	400 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
7	KSDL/2025-26/IND1145	Procurement of Jigat powder	60 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
8	KSDL/2025-26/IND1146	Procurement of D-Panthenyl Tri Acetate	33 Kgs	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
9	KSDL/2025-26/IND1147	Procurement of Sodium Silicate	70 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
10	KSDL/2025-26/IND1148	Procurement of Magnesium Sulphate	42 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
11	KSDL/2025-26/IND1149	Procurement of Sodium Sulphate	45 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
12	KSDL/2025-26/IND1150	Procurement of Common Salt Powder	36 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
13	KSDL/2025-26/IND1151	Procurement of Soda Ash Light	280 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
14	KSDL/2025-26/IND1152	Procurement of Lauryl Alcohol Ethoxylate 9 moles of EO	5000 Kgs	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
15	KSDL/2025-26/IND1153	Procurement of Questoll Powder	4500 Kgs	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
16	KSDL/2025-26/IND1154	Procurement of Titanium Di Oxide	17 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
17	KSDL/2025-26/IND1155	Procurement of Wacker Belsil 551 HP2 Silicone	800Kgs	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
18	KSDL/2025-26/IND1156	Procurement of Sodium Meta Silicate	10 MT	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
19	KSDL/2025-26/IND1157	Procurement of Cos. Oil Toney Red CI No. 26100	600 Kgs	16-03-2026	06-04-2026
20	KSDL/2025-26/IND1158	Procurement of Merquat Plus 3330	300 Kgs	16-03-2026	06-04-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division,
R.R.Nagara Zone-1, No.301, 2nd Floor, Near BEML Complex,
3rd Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560 098.
No: BBMP/EE/SD/RRNZ-1/TEND/01/2025-26/CALL-2 Date: 16.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, R.R.Nagara Zone-1, invites tenders from eligible bidders for the works detailed in table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction and Renovation of Compound Wall at Kariobanahalli Burial Ground in Ward No.40 at Yeshwanthapura. BWCC/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT244/CALL-2. **Estimated Amount: Rs.6.65 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 13,300/-. Period for completion of work:** 2 Months **Eligible Contractor:** As per KTPP Act.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 17.03.2026 onwards.** 2) Last date & time for Queries: **18.03.2026 upto 3.00 p.m.** (3) Last date for submission of tender document: **24.03.2026 upto 5.30 p.m.** (4) Opening of Technical Bid: **25.03.2026 at 5.30 p.m.** (5) Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders.(In the event of the specified date of tender opening being declared a holiday for the employer, the tenders will be opened at the appointed time and location on the Next Working Day.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Special Division, R.R.Nagara Zone-1,
Bengaluru West City Corporation

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only))

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for following materials.

Sl. No.	Description	Enquiry No.
1	**Procurement of 9 Mtr 300 KG PSCC Poles Lot-1**	**BESCOM/2025-26/IND0212**
2	**Procurement of 9 Mtr 300 KG PSCC Poles Lot-2**	**BESCOM/2025-26/IND0213**

Bid Documents available from : **17.03.2026 onwards,** Last date for Bid Submission : **01.04.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document : **02.04.2026 17:15 Hrs.**

The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Elec),
Procurement, BESCOM, 4th Floor,
K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

IN BRIEF

More barred from BCA polls

▸ The Gujarat High Court on Monday disqualified former India cricketer Kiran More and three others from contesting the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) elections, setting aside the election officer's decision to accept their nomination papers for various office-bearer posts, reports PTI from Ahmedabad.

The court set aside the action of the election officer in accepting the nomination forms of More, Amul Jikar, Anant Indulkar and Amar Petiwale.

Laporta stays as Barca prez

▸ Joan Laporta was re-elected as the president of FC Barcelona for another five years after winning a leadership vote among members of the Spanish football powerhouse, reports AP from Barcelona.

Shortly after midnight in Barcelona, the club announced Laporta had won.

His only rival, Víctor Font, had earlier conceded defeat and congratulated Laporta "for his unquestionable victory."

With the counting now over, Barcelona said Laporta received 68% of the votes.

Indian Open now PWR 1000 event

▸ The Indian Pickleball Association has sanctioned the fourth edition of the Indian Open to be held at Hyderabad in April as a PWR 1000 event, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The tournament, organised by Global Sports, has had more than 4,000 participants from 19 countries over last three editions across all categories.

Humpy set to withdraw as FIDE firm on Cyprus as venue

NEW DELHI, PTI: Not too far from the conflict-ridden Gulf region, there are concerns around Cyprus hosting the prestigious Candidates tournament this month but chess' world governing body FIDE has rejected a possible change of venues, saying there is nothing even "remotely dangerous" to warrant such a move.

The Candidates, which will decide the challenger to the world championship crowns currently held by India's D Gukesh (men) and China's Ju Wenjun (women), is due to start on March 28. India's Koneru Humpy is reportedly considering withdrawing from the tournament due to security concerns.

Earlier this month, a British air base in Cyprus endured a drone attack, raising fears that the conflict which started with the American and Israel bombing of Iran will engulf the island as well. Cyprus, the third largest island in the Mediterranean sea, is situated south of Turkey and is a member of the European Union.

"Our plans have not changed. We are in the final stages of preparing (for) the Candidates Tournament. Of course, we are monitoring the situation. Cyprus is not too far from, let's say, the war zone or conflict zone, but at the same time, it is not directly involved in any way and is not in a state of war," FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky told 'Chessbase'.

Chinnaswamy receives final clearance to host IPL

KSCA to conduct 2-3 more mock drills ahead of season opener on March 28

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

It is official! Putting an end to months of speculation following a deadly stampede during the team's maiden title victory celebrations in June last year, the Karnataka government gave a final approval for the Karnataka State Cricket Association to host Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL home matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The 19th edition of the Indian Premier League will get underway on March 28 when the defending champions kick off their title defence against Sunrisers Hyderabad here.

Confirming the development, KSCA secretary Santosh Menon said that the government-appointed expert committee was "completely satisfied" with the structural renovations at the venue after conducting a full-scale mock demonstration to assess the venue's match-day preparedness on March 13.

"We (KSCA) are happy to announce that we have received the final approval to host IPL matches at the iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium," Menon told *DH*.

"We are extremely happy we could complete all the security upgradation we had committed to in Phase 1, much before the deadline (March 15) on March 13th. When they came for the inspection, they were completely satisfied with no room for any questions," he added.

The decks have finally been cleared for the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to host the upcoming Indian Premier League matches. DH FILE PHOTO

The final approval comes after a meeting chaired by the State home minister G Parameshwara on Monday morning with the expert committee, KSCA, RCB and their event management firm DNA.

While the decks have been cleared, the expert committee and the police have also handed KSCA a few SOPs with regard to operational mechanisms and crowd management.

KSCA is also expected to conduct two to three mock demonstations before the first game. "Keeping all those facts in mind, we have also decided to carry out two to three mock drills before the first game. Probably we will conduct it on the 26th or around that time."

"During the drills, priority will be emergency services with regard to health and fire. We will also have one mock drill with the police and other volunteers, with regard to safe entry and safe exit."

Menon also hoped that BMRCL, who will provide free metro rides to RCB ticket holders, will partner with KSCA when Chinnaswamy eventually hosts international games.

"The Metro also came on board. RCB was kind enough to announce free metro rides for all ticket holders. Metro has come up with a good tie-up with the RCB and eventually will partner with KSCA also when we have international matches. On the whole, it's been a great team effort," Menon said.

"To summarise it, everyone was very co-operative and supportive. The KSCA, RCB, DNA and government have been keen right from day one to ensure that matches are played in Chinnaswamy. And it has been a great team effort," he concluded.

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium will host five RCB league games and two play-off games, including the final.

RCB players are expected to start assembling here from March 17, with the training camp likely to begin from Wednesday.

MI begin preparatory camp for IPL

MUMBAI, PTI: Five-time champions Mumbai Indians on Monday began training for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League, which will start on March 28.

Shardul Thakur, Mayank Markande, Allah Ghazanfar, Naman Dhir, Raja Angad Bawa, Robin Minz, Raghu Sharma, Mayank Rawat, Danish Malewar, Mohammad Izhar and Ashwani Kumar were the first group of players to arrive for training.

The remainder of the squad, which includes the likes of Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and skipper Hardik Pandya, is expected to join the camp in the coming days as preparations build in intensity ahead of the tournament.

"There's always something special about the first day of pre-season. You see the players walk in, the energy builds, and the objective is to start strong. We've got the boys who know this franchise inside out, and we have got some exciting new faces coming in," MI head coach Mahela Jayawardene said.

"Day one sets the tone for the entire campaign. We wanted everyone to feel the intent from the very first session, in how we train, how we prepare, and how we show up for each other. The first session is always exciting, but it's also the start of something serious."

CRICKET

Picked Ishan for WC on gut feeling: Surya

World Cup-winning skipper admits the decision was harsh on Jitesh

NEW DELHI, PTI

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav says he brought power-hitter Ishan Kishan into the T20 World Cup winning team purely on gut feeling, because he felt the Jharkhand batsman had the X-factor that could turn around matches.

Suryakumar was asked if he is a data-driven captain or gut-feel skipper, and what made him pick Kishan over Jitesh Sharma.

"It was completely on gut, little bit on data. It (the decision) was very harsh on Jitesh Sharma at that time because he was playing with the team for over a year. And he was playing, had he not been playing then the story would have been different," he said.

Suryakumar, who led India to the T20 World Cup victory on March 8, spoke at length about his career, the future of Indian cricket, and his relationship with head coach Gautam Gambhir and the squad. He pointed out that his own batting is driven largely by reaction and instincts.

"I was also very sad when we had to pick Ishan over Jitesh. But we needed an opener who could fire at the top, so someone had to miss out."

He revealed how Kishan came into the squad: Suryakumar called the 27-year-old and asked "Chhotu, World Cup jitayega?" (Will you get us the World Cup?). Kishan responded "Bharosa karogey?" (Do you trust me?) to which Suryakumar said "Chal kiya" (Done).

"And the way he played was amazing ... I always knew that he can be the X-factor because he has no baggage," Suryakumar recalled. He added that Kishan was going through a bad patch, having been out of the team for a while. To stay in the game, he travelled all over India and played minor matches, even practice games, to keep himself in the reckoning.

Kishan didn't let down his skipper. In nine matches, he made 317 runs at a strike rate of over 190, batting in the opening and number three slot. His aggregate was the fourth highest in this edition of the World Cup.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav (left) picked Ishan Kishan (right) because he believed the keeper-batter could be the X factor in a talent-loaded side. PTI

India can field 2-3 teams in T20Is: Suryakumar

India's T20 World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav believes the country's talent pool in the shortest format has grown so vast that it could comfortably field two or even three international-quality teams at the same time, underlining the depth created by a thriving domestic structure and franchise ecosystem, reports PTI from New Delhi.

"If you talk about talent, I feel you can find talent regularly. There is IPL cricket, franchise cricket, then there is domestic cricket. You can see how many players come every year. So you can make as many teams as you want in T20 when I am talking about T20," Suryakumar said.

"So I feel talent is unlimited. If you can make two-three playing XIs, our base is so strong, of the Indian team. So this is not a modest and diplomatic reply. But now it is so strong, so there is no shame in telling the truth," the Mumbaikar said.

Kibet, Edris to headline Bengaluru 10K

BENGALURU, DHNS

Uganda's Harbert Kibet and Ethiopia's Muktar Edris will headline the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, scheduled for April 26.

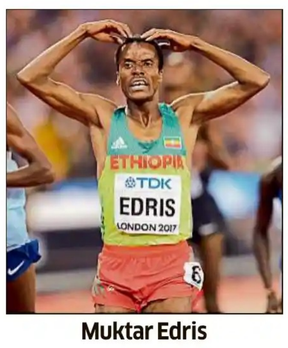
The World Athletics Gold Label Race boasts a total prize purse of USD 210,000, with USD 26,000 for the winner in the men's and women's categories.

Kibet, a finalist at the World Junior Athletics Championships two years ago, made his first appearance in the 10K earlier in the year, winning in Castellon with a world-leading 26:39, which is the sixth-fastest time ever for the event.

While Kibet is one of the five athletes entered with a sub-27-minute time this year, a total of 11 athletes with personal bests faster than the Bengaluru course record of 27:38 are also in the fray.

He will face a stiff challenge from Ethiopian Khairi Bejiga and two platinum-level runners, Rodrigue Kwizera of Burundi and another Ethiopian Gemechu Dida.

Kwizera was a silver medalist in Bengaluru two years ago, while Dida took a notable second spot in the RAK half-marathon in early 2026.



Muktar Edris

Similarly, his teammate Tadese Worku, the fifth runner to clock sub-27 minutes, is also familiar with the Bengaluru roads, as he finished with a silver in 2022.

Also in the fray will be the two-time world 5000m champion Edris.

Defending champion Sarah Chelangat returns to defend her crown. If she succeeds, it will be the second instance of two consecutive titles (previously achieved by Agnes Tirop in 2018 and 2019). The Ugandan runner claimed the top of the podium, clocking 31:07 in 2025.

India for FIH Hockey Nation Cup

LAUSANNE, PTI: The Indian women's team will feature in the FIH Hockey Nations Cup to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from June 15 to 21.

The Hockey Nations Cup was launched in 2021 to offer a top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the Hockey Pro League, and give the winning team an option to be promoted in it the following season.

The Indian women's hockey team was relegated from the Pro League 2024-25 after finishing at the bottom of the nine-team standings. Apart from India, hosts New Zealand, USA, Japan, Korea, Chile, Scotland and France will take part in the event.

Bhandage's ton floors Railway Institute South

BENGALURU, DHNS: Manoj Bhandage blasted a 36-ball unbeaten ton as AGO Recreation Club hammered Railway Institute South, Hubli by eight wickets in a KSCA Group II, I Division league cum knockout tournament here.

Riding Madan Mohan Krishna's 72, Railway Institute posted a modest 146/8 in 20 overs as they found the going tough against Darshan MR, who claimed 4/16.

AGORC made short work of the target, reaching 147/2 in 12.3 overs, with Bhandage producing an unbeaten 101 which was decorated with seven fours and 10 sixes.

Brief scores: DELL Cricket Club: 171/6 in 20 overs (Vinay Radha S 32, Sachin R Gankal 30, Dhanu 32 n.o.; Suresh Karani 2-31) lt to Central Excise & Customs: 172/6 in 19.3 overs (Rohan RR 54, Samarth R 43, Thippa Reddy 35 n.o.; Rajesh Ayyakkannu 2-27, Aevant P Khothari 2-29).

Railway Institute South, Hubli: 146/8 in 20 overs (Madan Mohan Krishna 72; Sunil Kumar DH 2-20, Darshan MR 4-16) lt to AGO Recreation Club: 147/2 in 12.3 overs (Manoj Bhandage 101 n.o.).

Mirabai set to miss first two Olympic ranking events

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Olympic silver medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu is set to miss the first two events with Olympic ranking points for the 2028 Los Angeles as she and her head coach Vijay Sharma stick to their long-term plan of switching weight categories only after this year's major competitions.

Mirabai Chanu

They had initially planned to begin competing in the minimum Olympic weight category (53kg) only from 2027 after the Manipuri lightweight lifter finishes competing at the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games in her favouree 49kg.

The idea, as per Sharma, was to gradually move up in weight during the off-season rather than rushing the transition. That process would involve adding muscle mass and working extensively on strength and conditioning before she begins competing in the higher division.

However, the Olympic qualification pathway, released last month, has made it clear that Mirabai would not feature in the first two qualifiers -- including October-November's World Championships which is right after the Asian Games -- that offer ranking points.

"We have no choice but to miss the first two events but that's not a problem as we can make up for it in the 2027 season's ranking events," Sharma said.

The qualification race for the Los Angeles Games runs from July 2026 to May 2028 and includes 10 designated events spread across two phases. In the first phase, lifters must record three valid total results across six competitions, including continental events and designated qualifiers.

Troubled by ankle injury, Praveen mulls switching to long jump

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's triple jump national record holder Praveen Chithravel has been the key name in the event since breaching the national record almost three years ago.

The 24-year-old JSW athlete, who won the 2022 Asian Games bronze, has managed 17 metre-plus jumps every season and matched his personal best (17.37) early last year after joining hands with Cuban coach Yoandri Betanzos.

However, what followed next was a sharp dip as the Tamil Nadu-born athlete failed to breach the 17m-mark for the rest of the season, including a pale exit in the qualification round of World Championships in Tokyo.

The year, too, he has been off to a slow start with a season best is 16.78 (came at the Indian Open Jumps competition) after featuring in two events.

Coach Yoandri, a two-time World Championships silver medallist and who had a personal best of 17.65, revealed that a recurring left ankle injury hindered Praveen's progress last season and that's the reason why he wants to move away triple jump.

Triple jump national record holder Praveen Chitravel believes he could have a longer career in long jump. DH FILE PHOTO

"His ankle injury has really made his progress difficult," the 44-year-old coach told *DH*. "That's why he is planning to switch to long jump next season as he believes he can have a longer career there."

It's hard to blame the Indian for considering the step as triple jump is perptually considered injury-prone due to its extreme and repetitive impact forces on knees, thighs and ankle. Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Eldhose Paul has faced the brunt of it as the 29-year-old Kerala athlete went under the knife thrice on a complex knee injury since Paris Olympics and is now racing against time to be fit and qualify to defend his title. For Praveen, long jump isn't an unknown event as he started off as long jumper before switching to triple jump. He featured in long jump last season too, managing a personal best of 7.86 metre in Spain last season and confirmed that he would compete in the same at the upcoming and inaugural National Indoor Championships in Bhubaneswar.

While the national record for its outdoor event stands at 8.42m (by Jeswin Aldrin), Yoandri stated that Praveen managed an encouraging 8.16 jump in training already. However, he added that triple jump remains the focus for the season as they want to sign off on a high at the CWG and Asiad.

"I always tell him that technique and strength wise, he is a better triple jumper than I was. But it's the consistency we need to find, which is by doing 17m-plus regularly. Once we crack that, we can achieve all our goals for the season," said the coach.

Bhagirathi Group to face Infosys CC in final

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bhagirathi Group and Infosys Cricket Club will fight for top honours in the final of the KSCA Group II - II Division league cum knockout tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

At the IAF ground, Bhagarathi Cup were too good for Continental Automotive Cricket Club during their nine-wicket win in the first semifinal.

After restricting Continental Automotive for 101 all out in 20 overs, Bhagirathi coasted 102/1 in 12.3 overs with Aarav Mahesh remaining unbeaten on 51. Aaron Joseph, who had claimed 2/20, struck 37 n.o.

Brief scores (semifinals): Continental Automotive Cricket Club: 101 all out in 20 overs (Krishnamurthy T 25, Karthik J 30; Santosh Kumar Singh 2-15, M Kranthi Kumar 2-19, Aaron K Joseph 2-20) lt to Bhagirathi Group: 102/1 in 12.3 overs (Aaron K Joseph 37 n.o., Aarav Mahesh 51 n.o.).

BEL Sports Club: 61 all out in 14.1 overs (Ajay Bhide 3-12, Vineeth B 3-6) lt to Infosys Cricket Club: 62/1 in 7.5 overs (Swaroop SH 33 n.o.).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd T20I: New Zealand vs South Africa (**11:45 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Sporting CP vs Bodo/Glimt (**11:15 pm**), Arsenal vs Leverkusen, Chelsea vs PSG, Manchester City vs Real Madrid (**all 1:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

Celebrate The Season Of Fresh Starts.

Make this Ugadi the beginning of inspiring journeys with your favourite NEXA car.

NEXA SAFETY SHIELD

GRAND VITARA

EFFECTIVE PRICE OF ₹9.84 LAKH*

XL6

EFFECTIVE PRICE OF ₹10.89 LAKH#

UP TO 100% WAIVER ON CAR LOAN PROCESSING FEE**

SCAN TO CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU

For detailed T&C kindly visit your nearest dealership. *Ex. Showroom Price of Grand Vitara Sigma ₹10.77 lakh, Consumer Offer (-) ₹25 000, Exchange Bonus (-) ₹30 000, Loyalty Upgrade Bonus (-) ₹20 000, eCRM Retention Scheme (-) ₹3 000, Corporate Offer (-) ₹15 000 = ₹9.84 lakh. #Ex. Showroom Price of XL6 Zeta 11.52 lakh, Consumer Offer (-) ₹25 000, eCRM Retention Scheme (-) ₹3 000, Scrappage Bonus (-) ₹25 000, Corporate Offer (-) ₹10 000 = ₹10.89 lakh. The actual Effective Price mentioned may vary based on the customer's eligibility, profile, and applicable offers at the time of purchase. Offers are valid on Grand Vitara Sigma Variant & XL6 Zeta Variant. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to discontinue offers without notice, and offers may vary across variants. The above offers are valid until stocks last. Creative visualisation. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Car colour may vary due to printing on paper. **By selected finance partners. Finance is at the sole discretion of the financier. Prices and savings mentioned above are for select variants and may vary across cities/variants.